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MISSION NEWS

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Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

INSPECTORS SNUB LATINO TENANTS SUIT AGAINST BBI LIKELY

by Phillip Robertson

"Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech." Gen. 11:7

Bureaucratic incompetence and a lack of Spanish-speaking inspectors have allowed the Bureau of Building Inspection (BBI) to shirk its responsibility to enforce the housing code in the Mission District; therefore depriving residents, usually of Hispanic descent, of certain basic human rights.

The BBI is the City agency charged with enforcing the housing code that all dwellings must meet, regardless of location.

"I have never seen anything like the conditions in the Mission District existing in other parts of San Francisco," said Randy Shaw, director of the Tenderloin Housing Clinic, a tenants' rights group.

When an inspector is sent out on a call, he or she fills out a fairly detailed report that lists the property's "sore points," such as damaged and leaking ceilings or faulty electrical systems. After processing the report, the BBI issues an order of abatement which directs the property owner to make the needed repairs or face certain penalties. Typically, the landlord is given 20 days to comply, although the repair of heating systems is supposed to occur within 48 hours.

In the most severe instances, violations listed in the inspectors' reports demonstrate that Mission tenants' human rights tenants have been cruelly neglected by the property owners and casually overlooked by the BBI. Such cases, as compiled by Neli Palma at St. Peter's Housing Committee on 24th Street, include lack of heat and hot water; dangerously wired electrical systems; non-existent smoke alarms; lack of security, as in rotted window frames and absence of locks; dilapidated and hole-filled stairs; and rat and roach infestation.

As a result, residents must live in damp, unsafe and vermin-infested buildings, which they must pay rent for in a timely manner or face eviction.

Although landlords may routinely violate the Housing Code, it is the BBI that must ultimately make sure that orders of abatement are acted upon promptly. The failure of the Bureau to do so has made it easy for landlords to evade the law and permits shameful conditions, disturbingly reminiscent of war zones, to persist — in some cases for up to seven years.

Mission Ignored By BBI

"The BBI claims that it has Spanish-speaking inspectors, but that is not really the case. They may have inspectors who speak some Spanish but aren't native speakers, and it is clear why that may cause communication difficulties," said Shaw.

"Another point is that the BBI directs its resources to where it can make the most money in fees, not where the worst violations are. Unlike the Health Department, which is the agency designed to protect the health of the City's population, the BBI only collects fees. If the Health Department was responsible for reasonable living conditions, you and I wouldn't be having this conversation about code enforcement. The BBI has complained that it cannot perform its duties on its current budget and that it must have more funding, but the Health Department does far more with less money," Shaw said.

Neli Palma also notes that when residents have recently emigrated from Latin America and speak very little English, they tend to be reluctant to pursue their complaints when it involves going through City agencies and filling out lengthy forms. They do not believe anything will come of their efforts, or that landlords will direct repercussions toward their

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MISSION SCHOOLS FACE DEMOLITION COST ESTIMATES VARY BY MILLIONS FIGURES CHANGE FREQUENTLY

by Victor Miller

In the course of three months estimates of the costs of physical improvements to two highly regarded Mission area schools, George Moscone Elementary and Las Americas Children's Center, ranged from zero to \$5 million and the evaluation of the condition of these facilities has appeared in school district documents as either below average, average or critical.

This shifting physical and fiscal reality regarding Moscone and Las Americas is further complicated by a controversial plan by School Superintendent Bill Rojas to demolish both schools and consolidate them in a larger facility. Rojas' plan is factored into the \$95 million school bond proposition, scheduled to be on the June ballot.

The conflicting information coming from the S.F. School District regarding upgrading these two schools illustrates the difficulties both parents and voters have in assessing policies which will impact directly on their pocketbooks and, more importantly, on their children.

The need to make repairs at Moscone and Las Americas was first addressed in the School District's Capital Assets Management Plan dated September 29, 1993. This analysis of 131 school sites throughout the city rated their physical condition on a scale of 1 to 131 - 131 indicating the most critical buildings and 1 the least critical. Moscone was ranked 84th and described as being in below average condition and Las Americas was ranked 46th and described as being in average condition.

The total cost for repairs at both schools over and above funds available was given as \$1.1 million.

These figures were viewed somewhat suspiciously by those familiar with the schools that are adjacent to one another on a large

open area on 20th St. between Folsom and Harrison. For one thing, an expenditure of \$136,000 for handicap accessing seemed unnecessary for facilities made up of seven one story buildings, all with fully accessible bathrooms. Also, spending another \$136,000 for asbestos removal when 2/3 of this work had already been done in 1986 for under \$20,000 didn't make sense.

According to Susan Shipely, Director of Facilities Management for the School District who was in charge of the 131 site review, it is School District policy to add on 10% to total construction costs of any project for handicap accessing and an additional 10% for removal of toxics such as lead or asbestos. "Although, this may not be appropriate at a particular site, it averages out district wide. Abatement work might be a very small part of the costs of one project and 20% of another" she said.

Added to these considerations are the generous budget allocations of \$57,000 to paint Las Americas and \$13,000 to replace a fully functional fire alarm system. In fact, some problems may have been corrected between March of 1993 when the schools were inspected and September when the Management Plan was issued. This all makes the repair estimate of \$1.1 million look pretty inflated.

About the same time the Capital Assets Plan was being written School District administrators began working on a plan to deal with the former site of John O'Connell Vocational High School at 21st and Harrison, one block away from Las Americas and Moscone. The trade school building was abandoned after suffering damage in the Loma-Prieta earthquake in 1989.

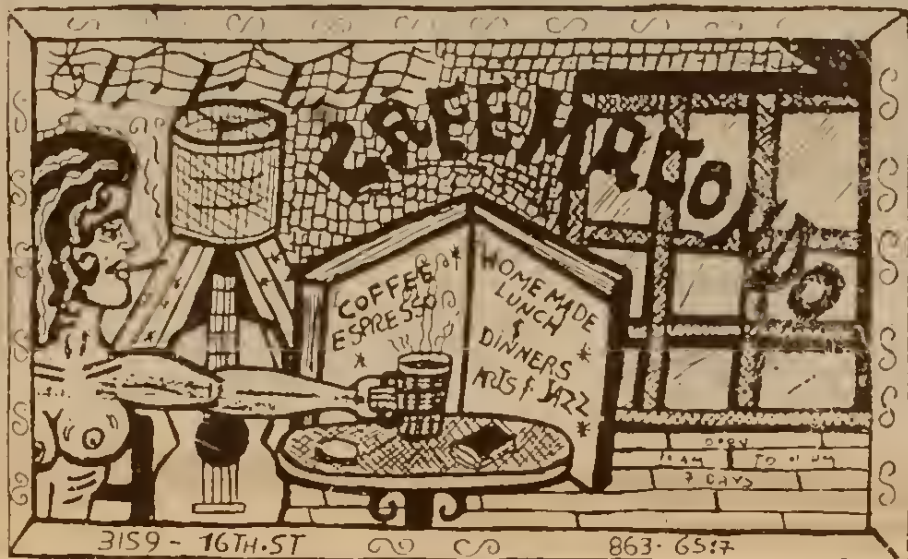
The rather grandiose scheme that emerged called for the demolition of both the O'Connell building and the Moscone/Las Americas buildings. A new O'Connell would

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BIKE ROUTE PLANNED FOR VALENCIA

By Stett Holbrook

Valencia, the Mission's colorful street of restaurants, churches, and small businesses, may become even livelier with the City's plan to widen it and create a bicycle route. The proposal, still in its preliminary stages, would involve eliminating the street's median strip, moving stop signs and traffic lights to the sidewalk, and widening the right lanes to allow for safer bicycle passage.

Jerry Robbins, transportation planner for the Department of Parking and Traffic, said the plan would create a bike route that would run the length of Valencia, roughly two miles. A bicycle route is different from a bicycle lane. The former is a widened route for both bicycles and automobiles; while the latter is a five-foot lane just for cyclists, to the right of traffic.

If approved, the plan promises to benefit the street's many cyclists, who prefer it to Guerrero or Mission for its flatness and lighter traffic. But while they will welcome the route, the plan is certain to upset area churchgoers, who have traditionally claimed Valencia's median for parking.

Nidal and Saandra Nazzal, owners of three businesses on Valencia, support the plan. Although they do not see the bike route as having an effect on their business, both are in favor of the plan. The Nazzals, active cyclists, often commute to work. Saandra Nazzal, however, expressed concern for the area's homeless and substance-afflicted residents who might be at risk when crossing the street without the island of safety the medians provide. Despite her concerns, both applaud the proposal. "It's a good idea," said Nidal.

Paul Olszewski, owner of Valencia Cyclery, believes the route would benefit his business and get more people out of their cars and onto their bikes. "Personally, I'm for it," he stated. Yet he refrains from an outright endorsement of the plan. Until its details are worked out, Olszewski will withhold advocating what promises to be a contentious issue.

Area churches and funeral homes may well oppose the plan. On weekends, parishioners have traditionally parked in the middle of Valencia, Guerrero, and Dolores. The elimination of Valencia's median strip would be a direct affront to many of these

two services on Sunday. St. Mark's has a total of six parking spaces. Eliminating the median and thus extra parking would make it very difficult for his congregation to attend services. "That would ruin us," he said.

Funeral homes, like churches, also depend

with increased bicycle traffic, he fears they will need to more vigilantly protect their private lot from non-customer parking and "picnickers" from nearby El Torro restaurant.

While little room for compromise appears to exist, the Department of Parking and Traffic has pledged to work with the community in working out a solution.

"The Department of Parking and traffic is willing to look for additional parking spaces," said Department spokesperson Lisbet Engberg. "We don't enforce illegal [church] parking ... and we are willing to work with the churches." She cited this as an example of the Department's good faith in working with the community and parishioners. Engberg suggested that vacant lots, empty stores and schools, and even shuttle busses might be possible means of dealing with the scarcity of parking created by the bike route.

The issue promises to come down to a debate between churchgoers who have enjoyed years of parking privileges and cyclists who use the popular Valencia thoroughfare. Both parties can claim to have a legitimate stake in the matter: Churches pay property taxes to support the upkeep of the roads, and cyclists pay income taxes that make up some of State Proposition 116's funds.

Under the terms of Proposition 116, the Department of Parking and Traffic was granted \$285,000 for the project. The proposition, also known as the Rail Transformation Bond Act, was passed in June of 1990 and provides for the allocation of state funds for City transit and transportation needs.

If approved by City officials and local residents and businesses, construction would begin in 1995.

To address the issues and concerns raised by the proposal, a community meeting will be held at the New College on February 9, at 6:30 p.m.



Valencia Street is the favored bike route in any weather. Photo by Eugene Kettner

churchgoers, who have enjoyed years of illegal parking.

Pastor Walter Green of St. Mark's Institutional Baptist Church expressed his opposition to the bicycle route. Green's church, like other area churches, conducts Sunday school and

on the extra parking Valencia's median provides. However, Duggan's Funeral Service has ample parking for its patrons, yet still opposes the plan. "If I owned a restaurant or deli I'd be in favor of it," said William Welch of Duggan's Funeral Service. But, he explained,

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INSPECTORS CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

families.

"It's such a shame that we have to do all the work for BBI by bringing these cases to their attention," Palma said, eyes flashing. "You know, if someone gives you a ticket for something and then there is no follow-up and no one make you comply with the findings of the abatement order, what is going to make you obey the law?"

Maritza Alvarado's Case

On November 4, 1991, BBI visited Alvarado's home of seven years at 144 Arlington Street and found that she had no functioning heating system, working stove, toilet or bathroom sink. To top it all off, the windows, all of which needed caulking but

could not be opened, allowed cold air to stream in and drop the ambient temperature even further. The basement floor was broken, and cracked water pipes sprayed their contents over it. Roaches were not longer afraid of scurrying about in broad daylight before the eyes of a City inspector; and for all this, Maritza Alvarado paid \$1000 a month. The inspector, Bernard Hom, gave the landlords 14 days to comply and make the needed repairs.

Previous to the inspection of her house, on October 17, 1991, Alvarado had received the following letter:

Dear Ms. Alvarado,
I represent your landlords, Mr. and Mrs. Ortega. They have asked me to write to you regarding the fact that you have been paying your rent weeks late each month for many

months.

I am sure that you will understand that the Ortigas have their own monthly bill that they must pay with respect to the 144 Arlington property. Your late payment of rent creates a difficult situation for the Ortigas.

The Ortigas have asked me to make it very clear that they will not allow you to continue to be late in your rent payments. These payments must be made the first of the month. If you continue to be late in the payment of your rent, the Ortigas will terminate your tenancy. The sincerely hope that it will not be necessary to evict you as a tenant.

Sincerely,
Robert Marmor, Atty."

After seven years of occupancy, Ms. Alvarado was forced to move along with her family, including one child. The end result: no enforcement of the Housing Code and no hearing for the landlords who were in violation of the law.

Roberto Hernandez, executive director of the Mission Economic and Cultural Association (MECA) said, "This kind of thing doesn't happen in Pacific Heights. It's just another example of inhumane treatment of tenants by absentee landlords who only care about getting their rent on time."

Dissolution of the BBI?

In January, the City of San Francisco summarily dismissed a claim for damages filed by the Tenderloin Housing Clinic and St. Peter's Housing Committee on behalf of a group of Mission residents who through the BBI's oversight, have been forced to live in substandard housing. Randy Shaw observed that the quick dismissal indicated that the City believes there is nothing wrong with the way the Bureau handles its cases or follows up on enforcement duties.

"The next step," he said, "is to assess any progress made in this area; and if there is none, we will go on to file a court case and pursue the matter. I believe that the Bureau would be making a grave mistake if it did not seek to remedy this situation." He added that he could not imagine that the Mayor would be

uninterested in seeking the source of a problem this important.

Now there is a City ballot measure in the works that will, if passed, amend the City charter and strip the BBI of its authority to pursue code violations. A citizen committee would be created to make sure that deplorable living conditions were not allowed to exist for months or years at a time.

One thing is for sure: The furor that drove Chief Building Inspector Larry Lichtfield from office remains, like many code violations, unabated.

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then be built at the Moscone/Las Americas site and Moscone/Las Americas would be combined with two other schools at the old O'Connell location.

Federal funds given to the School District to repair O'Connell would have covered nearly all but not all of the costs. The remaining funds were to be generated by the sale of housing constructed above the relocated Moscone/Las Americas Schools.

In a showdown between Rojas and over

ardize this standard, parents asked.

Also present at the meeting were a number of neighborhood residents who were extremely unhappy with the proposal to put 50 units of housing at the 21st and Harrison location.

Although never backing down from this plan Rojas agreed not to go any further with it before consulting with an ad hoc committee of teachers and parents appointed by the School Board, now called the Ad Hoc Committee on Mission Schools.



Las Americas, due for demolition ? Photo by Josef Pupava

200 angry parents and teachers on November 30 (see New Mission News September 1993), Rojas contended that under this plan the School District could provide new facilities for Moscone and Las Americas students and a brand new O'Connell facility without seeking any additional funds. The cost of repairs to Moscone/Las Americas was now zero. Parents objected vehemently to placing their children in the more crowded new site which would have 800 students and little if any open space. It was pointed out that at the current site, with 360 students at Moscone and 180 at Las Americas, reading and math scores were the highest of any Mission school. Why jeop-

A little more than a month later, without consulting the Ad Hoc Committee, the School District, included Moscone/Las Americas in its proposal for a \$95 million school bond. Amazingly, Moscone/Las Americas considered in this document as one facility was listed as being in the most critical condition of any of the 110 schools slated for bond funds and in need of \$5 million in repairs. Laura Alverenga, a special assistant to the Superintendent told the News the sudden sharp rise in cost occurred "because the community objected to the Superintendent's plan for housing he withdrew it and now more money is needed". Alverenga could not explain the reason

both schools were listed as critical and referred the question to Shipely. Shipely explained the new analysis is based on "the assumption that the schools will be moving to the old O'Connell site". Since this site has been uninhabitable for over four years it is listed as critical and since this is assumed to be the future home of Moscone/Las Americas they are listed as in critical condition even though they are in average condition and a block away.

To anyone who doesn't think about the world in this peculiar way, which is just about everyone, Moscone/Las Americas comes across as the worst school in the city, a death trap that needs fixing up fast.

The Ad Hoc Committee for Mission Schools has now drawn up four alternatives to the Rojas' plans to demolish the two Mission schools including one proposal that calls for the purchase of the Mission Armory at 14th and

Mission St. as the future residence of O'Connell.

In working their way through these proposals, parents and teachers are time and again going to be confronted with the elusiveness of hard fact and the weirdness of mind set that have characterized School district actions on and schemes for Moscone Las Americas and O'Connell This is an atmosphere in which mistrust will loom large and tempers will grow short, guaranteeing an antagonistic process certain to stir a political pot likely to be filled with \$95 million in bond money.

On the following page Vicki Rega a parent and member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Mission Schools has a few well chosen words to say about her experiences with the School District.

MISSION HIGH STUDENTS WANT ETHNIC STUDIES

By Phillip Robertson

On January 27th, the students at Mission High School met with six members of the Board of Education and Greg Bender, Coordinator of High School Operations, to present and discuss their demands for positive changes in the school's curriculum.

Students expressed their deep dissatisfaction with the absence of Latino studies and the general lack of bilingual teachers who reflect the ethnic background of the Mission District. In a verbal response to the student's demands, Bender offered two extra periods, a zero period containing the multicultural studies, which would take place before the regular first period, and a seventh period class after the regular school day for job training and college preparation.

While Bender seemed willing to offer modifications to the existing curriculum, students were critical of any plan that would place the multicultural studies classes outside the regular school day, saying that the number of students who could realistically enroll in the classes would be quite small because of job responsibilities or conflicts with the early

morning hours.

"I don't think that there should be a zero period, and if you put the classes after school that interferes with work. People have to work after school." Commented Artie Torres. "We need Latino teachers here who know where we are coming from."

Gerardo Campos, student body president, responded to Bender's offer of guest speakers for the multicultural studies course by saying, "I think it is better to have one teacher for the course instead of people coming in from outside, since it might confuse the students." Ramon Gonzales went on to say about the proposed courses, "Zero period and seventh period is a start, but the courses should be open to all students."

The courses Bender had discussed were designed for seniors but not necessarily limited to them.

David Lui, student body treasurer, eloquently stated what he was looking for in the new courses, "The ethnic studies classes need to teach the values and philosophy of the culture, not just the facts and the figures, but the value of human life."

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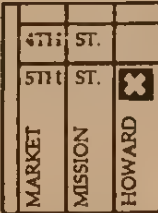
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GUEST OPINION

SCHOOL DISTRICT CHAOS

by Vicki Rega

The state of the public school system is an indicator of the health of the society as a whole — and we are in trouble. Divided into categories (ethnicity, sexual orientation, physical and mental capacity, and other narrow definitions), we are pitted against each other; at the elemental level of concern for our children, we squabble over the limited resources of our schools.

Those who can afford private schools live in the fantasy that their children will not be affected by the problems of the public education system. Parents with resources who choose to keep their children in the public system can select alternative schools through a process designed to be exclusionary.

Under the present system of racial integration, children from poor neighborhoods often attend schools in inaccessible areas of the City; while middle class children, from kindergarten through graduation, are assigned to schools within walking distance of their homes, where the concerns and difficulties of poorer neighborhoods will not affect them.

The illusion of parent participation is maintained by numerous committees, divided into specific areas of interest and whose agendas are controlled by the school district. Discussion of specific problems is seriously discouraged in these groups, and although they are generally called "advisory committees," they are never encouraged to advise. More often their agenda will consist of tips on helping your children with their school work (don't let them watch too much TV) or some other dribble of meaningless information. Access to real information is available, but you have to figure out where to get it and what it means. The system seems to be designed to promote ignorance and division.

Having personally experienced all of these things, I still find them difficult to believe. My

rational mind requires some logical explanation, yet all I see is a senseless plan for self-destruction. Angered, I search for villains who can be easily identified. I want to know who stands to gain from all of this. A rip-off to satisfy someone's personal greed would be easy to understand; without such a reason, I am forced to question my own perceptions. If there is no rational explanation, is this a paranoid distortion? But one reality prevails: Our children are not learning.

The situation is complex. Although there are incidents of personal greed, the majority of educators are sincerely interested in children's welfare. No one becomes a teacher because it will make them rich. Indeed, if being a successful teacher could insure riches, perhaps the system would not be in such chaos. Instead, our educators labor against overwhelming circumstances; overworked and underpaid, constantly under pressure, without respect or incentives.

Add to this a world changed so much in the last 50 years that those of us born at the beginning are hard pressed to cope. The creators of new technologies have been richly rewarded. No such incentives exist for those who must prepare our children to live in this new world.

There has also been massive social change. America has always been unique in this arena, because our population has amassed from such a wide diversity in a relatively short time. In the rest of the world, the effects of migration and conquest occurred over thousands of years on a smaller scale. Time allowed for more orderly assimilation of diverse populations, and the difficulty of travel limited that diversity. Conquerors eventually blended with the conquered, culture with culture, to create homogeneous populations.

In contrast, over a few hundred years the Americas have amassed a populace of immigrants from every other culture on the earth. There has never been a time when invaders

have unified with their predecessors. Even when most new arrivals were Europeans, differences of language and culture did not promote unification. As travel has become increasingly easy, the diversity of languages and traditions has multiplied our superficial differences, making the task of creating a unified population truly overwhelming.

The very nature of culture itself is an obstacle. Culture comprises a combination of factors including language, religion, family structure, art, moral values, codes of conduct, food and dress styles, which subliminally pervade a group's awareness.

Culture defines a society in every detail; it provides each member with reference points that both create a sense of personal identity and also define dealings with others, based on recognition of these points within a common context. Without the common understandings that culture creates, every interpersonal contact is potentially dangerous, unpredictable. To totally abandon one's culture is impossible, and few people are even inclined to do so. For most of us it is the basis of self-confidence, and the impulse to impart that to our children is a function of self-preservation. Furthermore, since it is the foundation of our self-image, every one of us tends to perceive our own culture as superior.

To further complicate the situation, the culture of one group in our midst was systematically destroyed to provide cheap labor. Those Americans descended from African slaves were robbed of the strength of cultural continuity, because only by destroying their identity could the system of slavery be justified. A people without culture are deprived of the basis of self-worth, allowing them to be perceived as less than human. The importance of that perception was so great that even today it persists consciously, and, even more destructively, subconsciously. It is a testament to the fundamental need for culture that the African slaves managed to preserve shreds of the past

for their children; but today, African Americans are still reconstructing their identity.

So teachers in this time and place face a unique problem. They must teach children whose frames of reference, developed in the years before school, are not likely to be familiar. Indeed, the teacher's own cultural reference may identify the student as inferior. But in order to learn, the child needs to be assured of her capability; she must feel valued within society. And the teacher needs to teach her to become an integral part of this society, while at the same time not devaluing her cultural heritage.

Presently this situation is concentrated in a few cities, including San Francisco. There is no precedent to follow; the curricula are being written at this moment. Most teachers are operating without comprehensive awareness or training in how to cope. Some don't have a clue.

To further complicate this matter, San Francisco is committed to creating an environment where diverse sexual orientations are acceptable. It is to the credit of our school system that it has begun to deal with this issue, since even the most mundane aspects of sexuality are potentially volatile subjects.

Throughout history, this type of situation has been dealt with by creating a separate community for any group that could not be easily absorbed. The decision to fully integrate our population, beginning with public schools, set this country on a journey as unique as the first human venture into space, and far more difficult.



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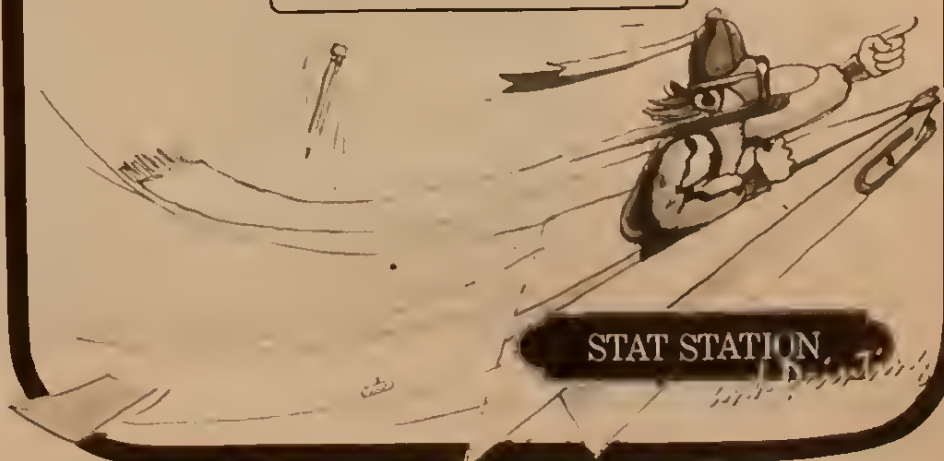
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HEALTH CARE FOR THE UNINSURED

by Richard Olive

Where can people in San Francisco go for health care if they don't have private insurance?

Or if they are not U.S. citizens?

Or if they are covered by neither of the government health programs for the poor or elderly, MediCal or Medicare?

For many people in these categories, the automatic response is to go to San Francisco General Hospital, where the wait may be as long as 10 hours for care.

Far fewer go to St. Luke's Neighborhood Clinic at 1580 Valencia St. (just South of Army St.) a bright clinic-within-a-hospital where the waiting time is typically under one hour. Located on the third floor of the hospital's Montegale Medical Building, the clinic is open weekdays from 8 am to 4:30 pm.

St. Luke's Hospital is actively trying to increase volume at its Neighborhood Clinic, which could prove beneficial to untold thousands, because it is the only private hospital in an area comprising more than 40 percent of the City's population.

"The clinic was founded 73 years ago to serve the poor and working poor of San Francisco, long before MediCal and Medicare entitlements," said Dr. Timothy Crooks, medical director. "Getting the word out about the clinic will improve our community's access to health care."

Patient volume has been increasing recently at an annual rate between 5-10 percent, to its current level of 10,500 patient visits a year. In volume, there is no comparison with the clinic at San Francisco General Hospital, which records that many visits in nine days — and more than 280,000 in one year.

In medical services, St. Luke's Neighborhood Clinic is comprehensive, offering a full range that includes 25 kinds of specialty care. More than 50 doctors from St. Luke's Hospital, representing a broad range of medical specialties, donate their time and expertise to the clinic. Many of them are bilingual.

"The support of our volunteer doctors makes it possible for the Neighborhood Clinic to provide high quality, community-based health care," said Georgina O'Neill, clinic busi-

ness manager.

Clinic care is on an outpatient basis. In cases when patients must be hospitalized, the clinic has an arrangement with San Francisco General Hospital. However, during off-hours, patients are treated by St. Luke's Hospital Emergency Department, the busiest private emergency department in the City.

The clinic charges its patients on a sliding fee scale based on ability to pay, including an annual registration fee of \$10. Recommended minimum payments are \$22 per visit for adults and \$17 for children. "Ability to pay is key" Crooks said. "Nobody has ever been refused care because they owe money."

While the clinic has numerous ties with St. Luke's Hospital, the two function as separate corporations. This way, Crooks said, raising funds is easier. The clinic's operating budget is about \$900,000, one-third of which is covered by patient payments. The bulk of expenses are covered by private donations and subsidies from St. Luke's Hospital.

Recent efforts by the clinic to reach out to the community include establishing stronger ties with the Good Samaritan Family Resource Center, 2871-24th St., whose client list is made up primarily of families from Latin American countries; and a Salvation Army facility, a drug and alcohol recovery home for men, that is adjacent to the hospital.

"This benefits us and the Neighborhood Clinic," said Betty Canton-Self, director of Good Samaritan, which sponsors a wide range of services and classes for immigrant families. "They want to be more involved in the community, and we have people to refer to them who need medical care."

O'Neill offered the following breakdown of the clinic's client profile:

- More than half are Latino, nearly one-quarter are white and about 17 per cent are African-American.
- More than 75 percent are employed but have no health insurance. There are a variety of reasons for this, such as part-time or temporary employment that does not offer insurance benefits, or unavailability of employer-paid or provided insurance coverage



Dr. Timothy Crooks talks with a patient.

Photo by Josef Pupava

Here are a few points to remember if you plan to use the clinic:

- Patients are encouraged to make an appointment by calling the clinic at 641-6500. This enables the clinic to serve its clients quickly and efficiently. While appointments are preferred, patients who drop in are not turned away.
- The clinic makes every effort to schedule appointments on the day patients call. More than 25 specialty clinics are scheduled during the month, with general medical,

pediatric and social services clinics scheduled daily.

- First-time clients need to register, during which a financial analysis is made to determine an appropriate fee based on the client's ability to pay.
- The clinic does not request or require any documentation of immigration status.

For more information contact Richard Olive at 641-6657 or 665-0683.

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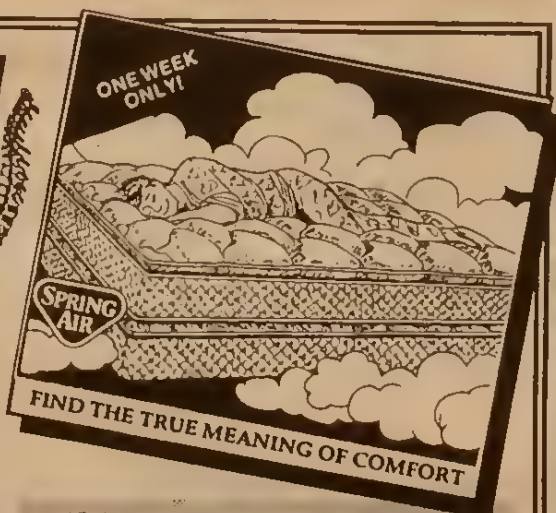
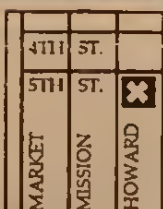


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by andy solow

HELP! POLICE!!

Money for police may not be a high priority in some quarters, but it's hard to concentrate on the important stuff when your tires have been slashed, your car windows have been broken out, there's a big dump on your front step and bullets are whizzing by.

Supervisor Bill Maher has proposed a Charter amendment that would mandate full staffing of the S.F. Police Department, with no less than 1,970 officers, the minimum staffing level established 15 years ago.

According to Maher, the SFPD has not been fully staffed since 1983. He claims that because the Department is currently 200 officers short, the gang task force, vice detail, community policing, and walking beat cops have been virtually eliminated.

Supervisors Conroy, Hsieh, Migden and Alioto are co-sponsoring the legislation. Supervisors Leal and Shelly have come out in support. At press time, Supervisor Kennedy was undecided, and Supervisors Hallinan, Bierman, and Kaufman were unavailable.

Participate in the process. Call all of the supervisors and encourage them to vote for mandated public safety. Call any time and leave messages!

Where's OUR Money???

We still haven't received our \$1.8 million check for Armory High School from the Mission Armory Foundation. I guess Alfredo Rodriguez (president of this foundation and executive director of Mission Legal Defense) and his friends are still planning to divert the Mission Armory Foundation Grant, which was specifically earmarked for the renovation of the Armory, to the purchase of a private office building where Alfredo's office is located.

Members of the Armory Foundation Board include: Mission Hiring Hall, Arriba Juntos, Mission Language and Vocational School, Mission Reading Clinic, Horizons Unlimited, Mission Education Project, Mission Housing Development Corp., and Mission Economic Development Corp.

These guys have been sitting on this money for at least three years, and it seems obvious that they don't have any intention of using it to benefit the Mission. If this money can be legally diverted to the purchase of a private office building for Alfredo and his buddies, why not use it instead to create youth jobs and hire recreation directors?

That's OUR money, Alfredo! Give it up!

Rezoning the NEMIZ

During the fall of 1993, in response to a request from Mayor Frank Jordan, the Mayor's Mission Task Force (MMTF) formed an Ad Hoc Committee on the North East Mission Industrial Zone (NEMIZ). The NEMIZ Committee conducted three public hearings and met with representatives of the San Francisco Planning Dept, Kent Sims (of the Office of Economic Development and Redevelopment) and Bruce Spaulding (Chancellor of UCSF).

The following are their findings:

As it is a state institution, UCSF does not have to follow any City zoning regulations to further develop in the Mission.

The community expressed strong support for mixed-use zoning and strong opposition to the creation of any exclusive use zone. It was felt that exclusive use zoning would prevent development of a friendly environment and would encourage the continued deterioration of the area.

In an effort to counteract its reputation for not being a good neighbor, UCSF has supported a "community based plan."

There is a concern within the community that the "community based group" that has been working on this plan for the past two years has not represented all segments of the community.

Any rezoning of the NEMIZ should discourage further development of high-density housing.

Any development of affordable housing should be subsidized, owner-occupied, single-

family dwellings.

High-density affordable rental housing can potentially place an undesirable identification upon its residents. Therefore, affordable rental housing should not be high-density and should be mixed throughout the City at large.

The primary concern within the Mission at this time is jobs and training for Mission residents. Therefore, small businesses should be continued and encouraged by zoning.

Artist/live/work space is a vital part of the Mission and should be encouraged and be an allowed use within the NEMIZ.

Biotech industries in their first generation would provide limited jobs for Mission residents. Only after they reach manufacturing and distribution processes would they provide a base of jobs. Additionally, UCSF will not provide a broad job base for Mission residents.

Some members of the community expressed concerns regarding UCSF's minority hiring practices.

UCSF and Biotech industries should be required to sign local hiring and training agreements prior to developing within the NEMIZ.

Biotech industries prefer buildings no taller than three stories, as safety precautions become more costly in higher buildings.

There should be no zoning which allows the construction of high-rises. Height limits should remain compatible with the predominate existing development.

The Planning Dept. has not developed a definition of allowable and/or conditional uses within a biotech zone. Although requested, it has not defined "heavy lab" or "light lab" usages.

These definitions should be made public prior to any additional public hearings.

Because the Planning Dept. has not defined these usages and UCSF has not clearly identified its plans within the NEMIZ, there continues to be a strong concern regarding animal experimentation, spills, poisons, and related cleanups. If these issues can be resolved, there is community support for the expansion of UCSF and the addition of biotech to the NEMIZ.

The entire community must be involved in the creation of zoning plan for this or any other area in the Mission.

Betrayed by the School District

In spite of the vehement public protests of more than 500 Mission parents, students, teachers and residents, the 1994 School Bond is speeding its way toward the June ballot. This fatally flawed measure includes Superintendent Bill Rojas' plan to tear down two perfectly good school buildings (Las Americas Children's Center and Moscone Elementary School) and cram 800 young children and 50 affordable-housing units into one small building at 21st and Harrison, with no open recreational space.

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What's good about being in a gang?
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What would you like to say to the police, the community and your family?

This column can be used as a place for

members of different gangs to work for peace between themselves. This column cannot be used to promote violence.

This is your chance to speak out. Material can be submitted anonymously — you don't have to identify yourself.

Send your words, poems, rap songs and art work to Deanne Berger-Moudgil, Column Editor, GangSpeak, c/o El Tecolote, P.O. Box 40037, S.F. 94140, or call Deanne's pager: (415) 227-6338.

BETWEEN GANGSTER LEAN

By Cynthia M. Salguero

Like a fool caught in a spiderweb's middle
Me, a crying clown surrounded by laughter,
I fear not finding the solution to
What may be life's tragic riddle.

Walking along the streets I was raised on,
I think of the darkness that is never gone
Wondering how I can stay alive;
It is with dread, fear and confusion
Toward life I strive.

Facing the path between family and friend
I ask, "Which one should be my lead?"
Not choosing, I instead give over
To the pleasure of weed.

I'm a young girl troubled and confused
Painfully I don't understand
Why mother turns away
And won't give me a helping hand.
I don't know what to do or where to go
Street life is the only way I know.

With guilt abounding in my mind,
I think of young love's trap
Like a broken record
Of lies and betrayal
Always sadly bound to rewind
A memory of pain
I suffer from this love's bitter game.

Looking out my window I see the ghetto
Watching everyday the endless drug deals
Just to get high and buy their meals
Pushers and users are close to death's heels.

With the volume up too high
Listening to the latest beat as the bass trembles
Luxurious booming cars loudly pass by
As those inside stop to roll up a joint
And go on with a crazy pleasure high
The homies everyday swing,
Missing life's point.

Babies with their young mothers
Left behind by their fathers
You get pretty fed up
But you must still keep your head up.
"Why must La Mafia be like this?"
I ask myself
As I know that I'm caught in the whole mix
Every second the clock will tick
Living in this situation
That's the way it always is
Wondering as I walk on the street
If I bump into an enemy

Knowing if I turn around to watch
my back
Someone with their gat
Will be daring to attack.

Rivals picturing me as their favorite target
Is what goes through my mind
As I wish for God to be with me
Praying he gives me a sign,
I carry my cross and try to be brave
As in silence I pray
And hoping it is me God tries to save.

When the day becomes night
I'll admire the sky
And its beautiful sight
To ward off terror after sunset
I'll imagine
The rainbow and its colors so bright.
How the colors stay up there,
Without getting in any trouble?
Why can't we unite
That's what would be right.

Homies risking their lives
Going through so many danger dives
Ending up in prison
And never reaching
A life with their wives.

Reminiscing
of when I jumped in a gang
That is symbolized by a colored rag
As my khakis then began to sag
"Be down for the clique"
They strongly demanded
But it was too much for me
And I couldn't stand it.

I think of the homies so apt to die
And repeatedly I ask, "Why?"
No answer ever comes to me
So wrapped my mind in confusion
With eyes that can see
But are hopelessly blind.
Sometimes I feel as if I don't care
Even though it's just not fair
Seeing stitches of a bullet hole on the mend
And bearing bitter tears
Inevitably that memory will send.

Chilling with the homies
I'll light up a cigarette
Watching closely as it burns brightly lit
Thinking this gang banging isn't worth it
So why don't I just get out
Of this hell so wrong
But being stubborn, my street life goes on
And living with it
Each day becomes the same sad song.

Sitting here day dreaming
Of good times and bad times
My own bad visions will bite
And my heart will fast be beating
Because of the thoughts are there
That I try to fight.

My eyes get watery
Then tears run down my cheeks
As I remember long and unpleasant weeks
Of a messed up childhood
Not giving a damn
Cause I won't give up my hood
Its just the way, frankly, I am.

Carrying a guilt
Wrought by violence in its deadly stich
Now yearning for
Someone out there with whom my life
I could switch.

My mind repeats:
"Should the clique I leave?"
But I don't want to punk out
My life thus goes on like this
It's what it's all about.
Like a moth through a burning flame
By the fire
My ignorance is blind
"Can't you see my failed desire?"

Every now and then too often
I see homies on acid frying
Others in the hospital dying
Because of those who carry their gats
And the victims who've been beaten by bats.

In the acting of a drive-by
Pulling the trigger somewhere off into the sky
Hoping the person being spotted will die
Because the clique told you to do it
Your thinking it was hella sick
But take my advice, "G"
Its not all that slick.

If you took someone's life
Your conscience will sting
Of what's committed is a deadly sin.
Of this problem on yourself you did bring.



I go to their funerals
Filled with tears
Cause I can't stand the pain
That another homie is six feet deep
And the gang dead will continue to gain.

Should I escape away from this so far
Even in an expensive stolen car
But I look back and remember the loved ones
And me with mom in the kitchen cooking
As a song she happily hums.

I'm a high school drop-out
Choosing as my family the hood
With the absence of me at school
I'm a fool
With my whole future life
in grave doubt.

I think of God giving me a life
So I shouldn't let it be stabbed with a knife
Cause I remember those who died like this
Who are now just loving set of drifts
On a loved memory bliss
That we all now painfully miss.

Will I ever change
I pause to ask
Trying to release myself
I must do good for my own health
If I wish to have life's wealth.

Who will be the next gangster to violence?
But I ignore that question
And keep on being my own self-menace
As my attitude remains always mean
I guess I'll always be an outsider
Between a gangster lean.

MAELSTROM BOOKS



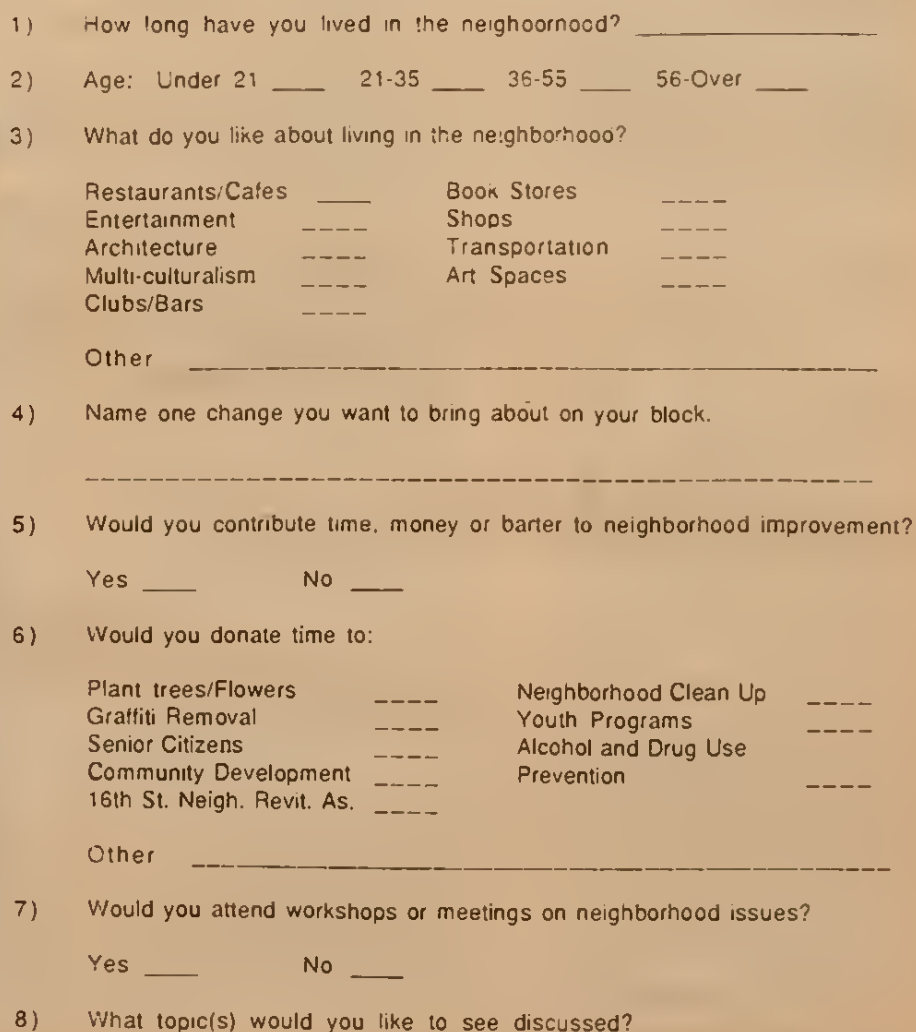
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MISSION DETOX CENTER PLANNED FOR 17TH ST.

After nearly a year of exhaustive search, the Walden House is currently negotiating with the owner of 400/440 Alabama Street at 17th St., across the street from Project Artaud to acquire the building for a program for homeless people who have substance abuse, and mental health problems. For the first time in the Bay Area, and possibly the United States, the Walden House will offer the homeless person alcohol and drug detox with the ability to do a medical detox for those whose health can not withstand a "cold turkey" detox. 90 day residential drug treatment, and supportive clean and sober transitional housing is all part of this program.

It is expected that this program, called the Steps Project, will open its doors around January, 1996. Walden House will provide on the job training, and employment to homeless youth in the renovation, and reconstruction of the 400 Alabama site. We expect to be able to provide up to 150 beds in the entire facility. The Steps Project will accept clients referred by any of the existing social service agencies and community based organizations that daily come into contact with the homeless. There will be no lines, or clients standing around outside the facility. All potential clients will be immediately accepted into the appropriate component of the program when there is an opening, or if they are not accepted into the program, referrals to other services will be made. Walden House has vehicles available for client appointments, or to transport clients

to appropriate referrals if not accepted into the program.

Walden House is in the process of setting up a Steps Project Community Advisory Committee which will be made up of business people, the project director, city officials, and other concerned citizens of the Northeast Mission neighborhood. The purpose of the committee will be to address the concerns and impact of the program on the neighborhood. A series of Town Hall Meetings will be held to present the program in more detail, and to answer any questions from the community at large. The first Town Hall meeting will be held February 8, 1994, on Tuesday evening at 6 pm at Theatre Artaud, 450 Florida St.

There will be an aggressive outreach to find and hire bilingual staff who have been homeless, and are in recovery to accommodate the increasing number of Latino and immigrant homeless who are both monolingual and bilingual.

The Walden House Steps Project is interested in formerly homeless people in recovery contacting us if you are interested in being a potential counselor, community advisory committee member, or volunteer. Please contact Andrew Hays, MSW, Steps Project Coordinator at Walden House, 554-1100, ext. 158 for further information in this important project.

Andrew Hays

SOCCER CHAMPS

The Jose Coronado (JC) Chivas boys under 14 team was undefeated during the 1993 Viking Youth Soccer League season and won the Viking league championship in their age division.

Coached by JC Playground Director Jose Guzman, and playing out of the Mission Youth Soccer League (MYSL), the JC Chivas boys under 14 and under 12 teams were the only two youth teams from San Francisco that participated in the January, California Youth

Soccer Assoc. (CYSA) Association Cup Tournaments in Ukiah and Redding.

Though they did not win, both of these new teams should be congratulated for helping to make youth soccer a year round activity in San Francisco.

The JC Chivas teams are supported by: the Mission Kiwanis Club, La Nita Sanchez, Dolores Reyes, the Mayor's Office of Children & Youth, and the Sign Display & Allied Crafts Union - Local #510.

SPORTS FIELD UPGRADE

On January 18, 1994, the Park and Open Space Citizens Advisory Committee unanimously recommended that the City spend \$200,000 to repair and maintain seven neighborhood athletic fields.

This is the first time the Committee has considered allocating Open Space funds for athletic field renovation and maintenance.

The seven fields, selected by the Mayor's Mission Task Force and the Mission Youth Soccer League, are at Potrero Del Sol Park,

Garfield Park, Lewis Sutter Playground, St. Mary's Park, Balboa Pool, and Holly Park.

If the Open Space Committee's recommendation is approved by the Recreation & Park and City Planning Commissions, the Board of Supervisors and the mayor, the money needed to implement this program will be available in August of this year.

Andy Solow

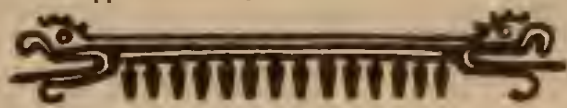
BIOTECH HEARINGS

The three rival plans for re-zoning the Mission's Northeast Industrial Zone, including one that calls for a biotech only area, will finally be the subject of long awaited City Planning Department Public hearings in February. In the months that followed the first public disclosures that the City intended to scrap a community based mixed use plan for the area and promote its own plan to attract biotech firms, the biotech scheme has been almost universally trashed by everybody with the exception of Planning Commission President Sidney Unobskey and Kent Sims of the Redevelopment Agency, whose enthusiasm for the project has been the only thing keeping it alive.

The latest biotech defector is chief aide to Mayor Jordan Jim Wonderman, who speaking at last month's Mission police community relations meeting, said "There appears to be sup-

port for the community based plan... as for the for the biotech zone, don't count on it." Hearings by the Mayor's Mission Task Force held in December also found little to encourage biotech advocates (see page 8 of this issue for their findings).

The Planning Department hearings will examine both the biotech and community proposals as well as a third so-called Industrial Protection Plan whose origins are unclear. Hearings are scheduled for Tuesday, February 22, 7 p.m. at Horace Mann School at 23rd and Bartlett, Wednesday, February 23, 6:30 p.m. at the Columbia Park Boys' Club at 450 Guerrero, Monday February 28, 7 p.m. at Mission Language and Vocational School at 2929 19th and Wednesday, March 2, 8:30 a.m. at Mission Language and Vocational School.



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SNAP SHOTS

By Robin
Snyderman

A newspaper has a feature column called "Dog Bites." Another simply features characters who are "In the Dog House." Needless to say, the editorial tone of these columns is rather cynical, in line with the odd etymology of the word. (Cynical derives from the Greek "kynikos," which means "like a dog.")

By contrast, in *The Hidden Life of Dogs* (a recent essay by E.M. Thomas), the author compassionately examines canine consciousness — specifically the traits of loyalty, patience, kindness. This perspective reminded me of repeated remarks by my co-workers about how Snap (the Wonder Dog) "humanizes" and "energizes" our office at the Mission Housing Development Association when she's around.

So if the aspiration of Snap Shots is simply to chronicle the "dogged" persistence of various Mission community efforts, it is sadly (or hypocritically ?) tempting to start on a somewhat cynical tone.

FLEABITTEN TASKFORCE

I don't know whether it's irony, tragedy or destiny, but long-time "Insider" columnist Lisa Hamburger penned her last piece in the same issue (Jan. '94) that D. Michael Spero plugged for the establishment of what he called "an umbrella organization." This organization would serve as a coordinator; a clearinghouse; a catalyst for the dozens upon dozens of Mission-based service providers, advocacy agencies and neighborhood organizations.

Three years prior to that issue of the News, Hamburger and other local activists were finalizing what they hoped would be such an organization: the Mission Task Force.

They had successfully convinced then-Mayor Agnos to (a) endorse a Mission Task Force; (b) appoint representative spokespeople which were nominated by the community; and (c) provide easy access to City officials who could promote their efforts.

Two years prior to that issue, that Task Force was struggling to maintain its role with a new Mayor Jordan while simultaneously clamoring to accomplish various objectives.

Among other things, it had published a tenants rights handbook in Spanish, presented the mayor a residential hiring proposal for the Mission, and started to compile a map/guide to Mission arts.

Most controversial of all, however, was its active role in the rezoning of the North East Mission Industrial Zone (NEMIZ). It sponsored two hearings on the subject and documented 12 pages of public testimony, primarily supporting a vibrant, mixed-used District. The Task Force also coordinated a "working group" representing various perspectives, including the Department of City Planning, economic development, the arts, affordable housing, market-rate housing and others.

The relationship between City Hall and the Task Force began to deteriorate in August '92, in the 18th month of "working group" deliberations, when one of the mayor's staff announced that the mayor wanted NEMIZ to be an "industry only" area. An inquisitive and irritated letter was sent to the mayor at that time; no reply was proffered. In October, the mayor announced his plan to revamp the Task Force.

One year prior to that issue, that Task Force was replaced, its members not receiving as much as a phone call from the Mayor's Office before new Task Force members were initiated on the evening news.

Snap the Wonder Dog started coming to work in the Mission shortly thereafter.

Two weeks after that last issue of the New Mission News, a frustrated and passionate Mission District resident inadvertently summarized the point of this retrospect. She bumped into some of us on our way home from a meeting downtown. "Why doesn't the Mission have its own version of the North of Market Planning Coalition or the South of Market Problem Solving Council? I haven't known where to take my neighborhood concerns in months."

I recommended she talk with new Task Force members, surprising myself with this genuine display of faith. But by the time she walked away, the faith was gone.

I understand why, in all the excitement and hoopla surrounding their initiation, none of the new members thought to question the circumstances surrounding their inception.

Eventually, I even accepted the fact that confrontation would never occur. New members had no intention of challenging the mayor on the way their neighbors and colleagues were treated. Perhaps they were hopeful that his behavior was reasonable. Let bygones be bygones, they thought, and focus on the task at hand. What I don't understand is why, once the work was started, no effort was made to review the efforts of their predecessors, let alone to continue with those efforts. All that public testimony on the NEMIZ — forgotten. All that work on the map/guide to Mission arts — discontinued. This is worse than disorganization. This is disrespect. And sadly disconcerting. But it is not our destiny.

A STEP FORWARD

The Mission community undoubtedly has what it takes to pull together. And I, for one, was truly heartened by the outcome of a January press conference held by the Coalition for Code Enforcement to announce a civil rights complaint against the Bureau of Building Inspection. It was a broad-based denouncement of the intolerable conditions in which thousands of Mission renters are forced to live.

Along with who might be considered the expected participants — Neli Palma of St. Peter's Housing Committee, Ted Gullicksen of the Tenants Union, Jim Lowder of Dolores Street Community Services, Victor Marquez of La Raza Centro Legal and Daniel Hernandez of Mission Housing Development Corporation — dozens of other Mission loyalists came to express support; among them, Rich Sorro of the Mission Hiring Hall, Jose Medina of Instituto Laboral de la Raza, Gladys Sandlin of Mission Neighborhood Health Center, Christina Gutierrez of Companero Del Barrio, Margaret Gee of the Mission Reading Clinic, Sylvia Ramirez of La Raza Information Center, Ricardo Noguera of Mission Economic Development Association, Roberto Hernandez of Mission Economic and Cultural Association, and Mitch Salazar of RAP.

"The City is arresting homeless people for having nowhere to go, but it is doing very little to punish property owners who maintain dangerous, unhealthy living environments for those tenants just barely hanging on to their housing," advocated Karen Klein.

"Job hunting is a challenge regardless of your living conditions," stated Rich Sorro, "but the odds are dramatically against you if you can't get a decent night's sleep — due to lack of heat, or you can't count on the safety of your belongings while you're away — due to poor security . . . Decent housing is the basis for decent health, decent work and a decent life."

At that press conference, seven recommendations were presented to the BBI. At least three of them are in various stages of implementation. And the pressure will not let up.

We may not be pack animals, like canines and certain homo-sapien predecessors, but — when our community is cohesive — we are packed with the power to succeed.

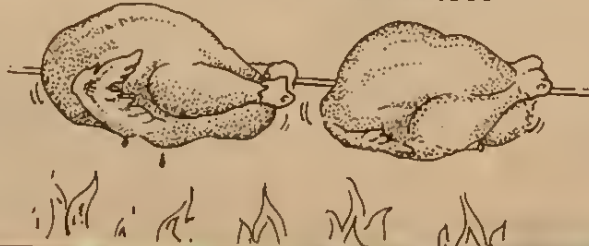
Good luck to former News Insider Lisa Hamburger. I expect she'll find great success in all her future endeavors (including a fine guest column or two).



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the Grassroots report

By: D. Michael Spero

CALLE VEINTEDOS

Block clubs wink in and out of existence like lights in a bad Christmas display. Organizers leave or burn out; issues get resolved or become overwhelming, and people go back to living their lives as if the community was somebody else's problem. Things slowly decay until new organizers or a new outrage stimulates energy and action.

Some groups manage to avoid this fate. Through hard work, they take on lives of their own, maintaining and improving their neighborhoods in various ways, growing in strength and political influence. One such success story is Calle 22.

Begun seven years ago by a group of Florida Street neighbors in response to drug dealing and violence on their corners, Calle Veintedos (22nd Street) has grown to include almost 50 blocks, from 19th to 23rd Streets between Bryant and Shotwell.

"We started off meeting in houses," remembers Linda Jupiter, one of the founders. "With help from Project SAFE, we were able to keep it going and to grow."

A turning point came when Calle 22 moved their meetings to St. Peter's Church. "It made it seem like more of a community thing," says Jupiter, "instead of just some people getting together." Meeting attendance increased and the focus area widened. The group won installation of stop signs, and

through constant phone calls, increased attention from the police and thus an improvement in street safety.

Three years ago, Mauricio Alvarez, a Mission Hiring Hall counselor, told Calle 22's David Bracker that the San Francisco Open Space Commission was soliciting proposals for new parks. Although the deadline was only a few days away, Calle 22 managed to pull together two proposals — both of which were funded. One result of this can now be seen in the vacant lot next to the Mission Recreation Center on Harrison St. near 20th, where an open play area is being constructed. And, according to Bracker, a larger park at 23rd and Treat is in the finalizing stages.

"We've gotten over two million dollars in Open Space funds," Bracker says. "We've blocked liquor licenses and gotten the moratorium on new licenses extended to the whole Mission District. We've closed crack houses by pressuring the landlords. We're getting more consistent. Most of the Supervisors know Calle 22."

The group's communication system stems largely from Ron Norlin, owner of the Mail House on Jessie Street. He keeps a database of over 100 residents and sends them updates three times a month. "I send them early and often," says Norlin. "When our members need action, we can get it."

How has Calle 22 managed to keep people



coming? "You have to keep 'em busy," says Bracker. "When we don't have burning issues to deal with, we go out and sweep streets or plant trees. But there's always burning issues." Right now they're fighting a proposed liquor license for Mi Mazatlan restaurant at 20th and Harrison, down the block from the Rec Center and across the street from the school. Partly due to Calle's efforts, railroad tracks are being removed from Harrison, and trees are being planted.

Calle 22 works with other groups; their January meeting was canceled while some members met with Supervisor Bill Maher and others went to a Violence Prevention Initiative Steering Committee meeting.

Saul Alinsky, patron saint of community organizers, would agree with Bracker's approach. In *Rules for Radicals*, Alinsky advocated going from victory to victory, pointing out that small gains keep people from feeling depressed and powerless. He also stressed the importance of a formal institutional structure with officers, which Calle 22 has, to provide continuity and keep things from drifting.

Like many other successful community groups, Calle 22 has been attacked as conservative or reactionary, partly because they consistently advocate for more police presence. Their literature and meetings, at first scrupulously bilingual, are now all in English. Although their membership includes significant numbers of Latinos and Asians and a small number of African-Americans, their meetings are largely white and increasingly middle-class. While the group speaks for a large hunk of the Mission, it does not truly represent the entire neighborhood.

Still, they are clearly getting things done that benefit everyone, and they're reaching out to form coalitions, particularly around violence. The life of a neighborhood group is always tenuous, but the force seems strong in Calle 22. Says Linda Jupiter, "I think this one's going to last."

Calle 22 meets on the second Thursday of each month at the Mission Recreation Center, 765 Treat Street.



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CARNAVAL COUNTDOWN

BY C.M. COLLINS

LADIES, GENTLEMEN, TRANSGENDERS & FREE SPIRITS LET'S CALL THE 15TH CARNAVAL SEASON TO ORDER: Time for those who believe in the power of rhythm, myth, and dance to take up arms, legs and your imagination to aid your community in connection with the eternal rites of Spring.

Semi-Official kickoff the 25th annual *Brazilian Carnaval Ball* at the Galleria (Sat. 2/12/94, 101 Henry Adams St.), featuring colorful celebratory multisyncretic traditions of the local renowned performance companies of *Escola Nova*, *Aquarella*, *Ginga Brasil* & *Fogo na Roupa*, plus *Celia Malheiros* & her *Brazilian All Star Big Band*. Carnaval cultists should remember 1994 as the *World Cup Soccer* year. You'll have to win tickets (above) to see the sold-out action at *Stanford Stadium*, or perhaps appear in a half-time show. Related Rumors: *Pele* as the Carnaval-San Francisco (C'SF) Grand Parade Marshal.... **Peter Minshal**, the Trinidad Carnival's great mas master, whose *Barcelona Olympics* costume designs were globally acclaimed, will produce the *World Cup Opening Ceremonies* 6/17 at Chicago's *Soldier Field*. (Is this to much of a stretch to point out that the opening match, Germans v. Bolivians, pits the U.S.A.'s strongest European bloodline against the most pre-Hispanic people in the New World?)...Nearby in Palo Alto, our beloved Brazilians will kick off the high drama, and *Olodum* hopes to be close at hand to build on last year's great C'SF success. ❀ ❀ ❀

More Mas: Minshal and his close associate, Peter Samuels will also be debuting in our C'SF parade (5/29/94) in association with a new group out of Oakland called *Banyon* led by H.A. Myers, Mayor Elihu Harris' Carnival Ambassador- *Odessa Pegus* and publicist *Jennifer Morris*.... If a Carnival superstar exists it is Peter Minshal. The compelling genius of his 20 years of original, mythical, street theater is overwhelming in an age when high art has been corrupted by commerce. Since this Caribbean bred multicultural artform can only be presented with motion and music, there is a lobbying campaign for *David Rudder*, the great Calypsonian singer, to be the C'94 Grand Marshal (there's been 1 Brazilian & 2 Latinos since the *Mighty Sparrow* in C'90) If only C'SF had a few deep-pocketed patrons like the many Euro-centric institutions hereabouts. ❀ ❀ ❀

WHAT AN OFF-SEASON: Heading the list: *Yerba Buena Arts Center's* Opening festivities headlined by the *Desperadoes*, the 50-piece Steel Pan Orchestra from the carnival capital Trinidad. A half dozen C'SF contingents, "curated by *Roberto Y. Hernandez*" started things off with a parade, drummed up the water local goddess, *Pacifica*, who then sprinkled her blessings on the rest of the day's dedications and dignitaries....*East Bay Express*, last November, featured longest ever story on C'SF, yet many thought coverage too narrow. *Mas Makers Massive* & its director *Stephen Tiffenson* hosted the writer. The *Carnaval Contingent Coalition (CCC)* has been logging many hours and hopes to initiate a "formal process" of cooperation and oversight with C'SF producer *MECA*. ★ ◆ ★

CARNAVAL COUNTDOWN 1993 AWARDS

ABC/KGO-TV Show

Best TV announced theme *All Ah We's* four freedom sections ending with "Unity is freedom"

Special Commendation: *Lichen & A Waking Dream w/ Consumer Slaves* which was cut from the TV show despite its inspired take on TV

Best Frank Zamabona pre-produced Segment: the History of Carnaval which had stellar highlight video from a half dozen legendary Carnivals.

Queen Jackie Barnes: "I wanted to be the Queen of Carnaval to represent all the variations of music and dance that I've experienced through the years. To show people the all the love, the joy.... Carnaval is life, pure and simple. Life. Life is dance, music, color. Carnaval is all those things that we never get the opportunity to actually become. In that one day and that one moment, everybody is free. Everybody is who they really are—happy."

King Jaime Martinez: "I always wanted to be the king, at least for one day. Everybody wants to be the king, at least in their dreams. When I dance, I really like it. That's why I'm doing this because I really love it. This Carnaval is unique, there is no other Carnaval in the world that has cultures from all over—Brazil, Caribbean, Central, South America and Europe as well. So it's really important, this Carnaval, and I am happy to be part of it."

Queen of the Camera /Best Babe: *Yenia Olszewski (Fogo)* who received 3 shots totalling 17 seconds followed closely with 2 shots and 15 seconds by *Monica Caldwell (Sambao)* the samba-hop hop/new age/video queen of Marin.

Best TV moment: TV-PJ Don Sanchez to a mobile Cynthia Pierce: "Are you having a good time? CP: Can't you see how beautiful these faces are? And the kids? Look what they are doing. They're doing beautifully. They're participating in culture. DS: Are you going to be tired when this is over? CP: Ahhh, I'll go forever, like the universe." Cynthia, now a featured performer w/ *Samba do Coracao*, put together a great debut *Day of the Dead* band as well.

Best Sound: *Kip Ferris & Batu Pitu*'s music which was used later in the broadcast giving a Batu Pitu a second shot at airwave infancy.

Watch Out Rose Parade & Sambadrome. Don Sanchez bragging about the "special Carnaval cam on Mission Street. Nobody else can do this. Of course we are the only ones who are covering it as well."

Salute to the Roots: Rick Telesford-*Escola Nova* Bateria Director. "I've always been attracted to Latin music and drumming. Growing up here in the Mission District, starting with Conga drums, and graduating to Brazilian percussion. I like to think I've been in Carnaval since the very beginning. I was drumming for *Adela Chu's* class and after class we would sit around and say, "Gee it sure be nice to have a parade on Mission Street and do and a Carnaval parade. She made that dream come true."

Constructive Criticism: Congrats on best ratings ever but try letting the parade go without voice-over longer than three seconds. The 6-day broadcast delay included additional voice-overs. Are we not MTV of parades?

A few to watch for C'94: H.A. Myers of *Banyon '94*, *Pleasure Players* out of San Jose, Mayor Elihu Harris and his *KDA Lucky 13* partner *Speaker Willie Brown*, Dennis Broughton & the *CCC (Carnaval Contingent Coalition)*, *Yerba Buena Arts Multicultural Arts Center*, the two new Brazilian promoters, *Roberto Lima (BABC)* & *Renato Frota (BCCE)* and our very own irrepressible impresario *Roberto Hernandez* of *MECA*.

VOLUNTEER for MECA in MAY: 826-1401

Keynote Milestone: *OLODUM* Carnaval royalty from the African American music & spiritual capital of Brazil—Salvador, Bahia. This top band, sponsored by *Bahia Toursa & Varig Airlines* & produced by *Carmen De Arce & Renato Frota* was the toast of the season. They can still be seen on the '93 PBS hits, *Dancing & Paul Simon* or hear their new CD.

Best front line: *Escola Nova de Samba's* *Yemanjá Shell Dancers* designed by *Lousie Gaharino & Wendy Miller*.

Best Choreography: *Escola Nova* *Josephine Morado & Rhonda Stagnero* who worked with each section for uniqueness & harmony.

Largest kid's presentation ever: *Champ Buena Vista* from *Meadows Livingston "Exploring the Universe"* over 170 kids, parents teachers.

Best youth baleria: None so *Buena Vista Elementary* with large plastic water cooler bottles takes it. When will we stop increasing punishments for graffiti & other nonviolent first offenses and start investing in our youth?

Drums for Guns, \$\$\$ for instructors!

Best small group: (less than 50) *Grupo Aztlan-Alisa Duarte* in collaboration with *Dolores Rivera* *Meringe from Vera Cruz*.

Best Self-made Float: *Boricuas Pro Carnaval* (Puerto Rico) with the *Mission Rotary Club*.

Best new MECA Sponsor: *United Airlines*

Best new non-MECA sponsor: *VASP Airlines* for *Birds of Paradise*

Most Media: *Wise Fool Puppet Intervention*

Most underrated: *SAMBAO* directed by *Maria Sousa of Aquerella*

Best Morphic Field: (*Cordless Connections on astral planes*) *Fogo Na Roupa w/ Carlos Aceituno*

Radical Amazement: the twenty *Women Walking Tall* at the end of the Grand Champion, *All Ah We's* presentation.

Best Silil-Dancer: Director *Joanna Highgood* of *ZACCHO Dance* for her butterfly portrayal.

Push'in the envelope: *Kip Ferris, Batu Pitu* doing *Ultra-urban Aborigine* with original Samba-Jazz" music, a Mummer's style, made-for-TV moment, longest float ever, & more.

Great Debuts: *Samba Do Coracao*, *Mission YMCA* & *Viva Panama* all w/ strong costumes, floats and more than 70 cast-members.

Best song, sound system & baterla director costume: *Immigrants in the Land of Uncle Sam* by *Ginga Brasil* w/ Music director *Dennis Broughton* as *Uncle Sam* (How bout a big-time, radio-sponsored Carnaval song contest?)

Best Trends: The five multi-sectioned Bolivian groups which makes their tradition the third largest after Brazilian and Caribbean. *M.E.L.A. or Mocidade of Los Angeles* had nearly 75 members join *Ginga Brasil*.

Worst Trend: Too many substandard sound systems & lackluster floats which hopefully will turn around in '94 along w/ the economy. **Life=Death=Rebirth=Carnaval** *Stephen Derrick's*, (*D'Midas* star *Trini* designer) *King & Queen*

FEBRUARY FEATURE ATTRACTIONS

ESCAPE TO ALCATRAZ



Despite the prison theme, fans of low culture take note- what we are dealing with here is conceptual, confinement cerebral bondage and incarceration of the intellect. There will be nothing like the famous mud wrestling sequence with Pam Grier in "The Big Bird Cage" nor will there be any thing along the lines of what Joe Bob Briggs calls a "no-cheating shower scene".

Hosts Carolyn Cooley and Rachel Mayeri do offer up "Bird Cage Wedding Cake" shot in Super 8, video and that current filmmaker favorite Pixelvision. As far as anyone can tell, shooting still being underway at press time, this psychogeographical collaborative effort will provide a complete, although probably not entirely reality based history of Alcatraz, including the Apollo Space Capsule Project, the American Indian takeover and some observations about modern tourism. Robert "Birdman" Stroud, Alvin "Old Creepy" Karpis and Al "Scarface" Capone all denizens of "the

Rock" provided inspiration, members of the frequently incarcerated Food Not Bombs acted as extras before being hauled off to jail.

Also on the bill is Julie Zando's "Let's Play Prisoners" which examines mother/daughter, directrice/actress power trips and was showcased at the 1990 SF International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival.

Mizu Shobai by Lana Lin deals with an imaginary voyage of a Geisha during the time of Japanese isolation.

There will be a new work by the collaborative film group silt, a travel piece by Perry Miegs, "Liberation" by David Cunningham and "the Last of the Daredevils" by John Byrd, and several other jailhouse of the mind motif screenings.

Saturday, February 12 at Artists' Television Access 992 Valencia Street, 8:30 p.m., bring \$5. Call 824-3890

FEUERBACH



After an absence of a year, the Julian Theatre is back on the boards in February and March with a new play, "Feuerbach," by German playwright Tankred Dorst, collaboratively produced with R.M. Productions of Munich, Germany.

Performed by two actors and a company of dancers, the story explores the mind of an aging star, returning after years of unexplained absence from the stage to audition for a famous director. Obsessed by fears of personal failure, loneliness and growing loss of sanity, Feuerbach, portrayed by the Julian's Richard Reineccius, fights with a young assistant director for a role that may be his last hope for respect in his profession.

The dance in the production is choreographed by Rudi A. Martinez, former Bay Area performer, now based in Munich. Direction is by Peter Glockner of Munich. Original music is by Dan Gschwind. Glockner and Martinez also translated the play.

"The poor man could be anyone, in any kind of work," said Reineccius. "Society and colleagues throw people away if they become a bit eccentric or too old." Noting that the role has been performed by some of Europe's top actors in recent seasons, he added, "It's a big challenge to play the role and to make it entertaining yet touching. He's a kind of sad yet joyful old guy, with too many memories. Way too many. I think everyone will recognize someone in their own family through Feuerbach." Reineccius learned of the play last season while directing in a state theatre in Poland.

"Feuerbach" plays Fridays through Sundays at 8 p.m., February 18 through 27, with a preview February 17, at the SOMAR Theatre, 934 Brannan (near 9th Street); then at New College Theatre, 777 Valencia (near 19th Street) March 4 to 13. For tickets call the Julian Theatre, 626-8986.

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THE FALLING DOG TAKES OFF

by Lauren Hirshson

The newest addition to the Mission menagerie of merchandizing, which includes Dog Eared Books, the Chameleon, El Toro and (well, sort of) Katz Bagels, is the Falling Dog Cafe. Located on 20th St. between Mission and Valencia, the Falling Dog beginning this month will become a unique performance site.

Every Tuesday, there will be an open mike. What makes this one unusual, said owner Daniel Soares, is that the best musicians from previous sessions will be chosen to play a full-out show.

Not only that; there will be several different reading nights per week. Last October, the Dramatists, a group of play writers, packed the house with a play and reading. Local Dance Theatre Project saw the Dog and also wanted to do readings there; on Feb. 3, they will begin with "Feuerbach" by Tankred Dorst. (See page 15.)

Daniel has spent the last month setting up this new venue. "We'll have poetry, fiction, drama and another kind of book night, where people can read an excerpt from whatever book they want and offer their interpretations," he said.

A slender man with glasses, ponytail and torn jeans, Soares is passionate about providing a showcase for artists. "I want everybody to have an opportunity to play, all different types of music," he said.

To that end, he is also considering a form of "DJ night," where people would be invited to bring in their own tapes. "You never know what kind of music is going to come in; it expands our minds," he said. "That's what I think a cafe is supposed to do.

"That's why it's called 'The Falling Dog,' after a short story about an artist who was burnt out; he had no theme. One day he was walking down the street and a dog fell out of a window and hit him on the head — and gave him a theme, inspiration to paint and sculpt different types of falling dogs; he became rich and famous. That's what this place is for: to

give every artist inspiration."

Despite his involvement, Soares doesn't practice any art form himself. "I'm just a busi-



Dog owner Daniel Soares, reflected in the mirror, listens to some doggerel.

ness person," he says. "but a few years ago, I started to learn about art — what I liked. This art on the walls, I don't know anything about it, but I liked it; it gave me a good feeling. I don't know anything about music either, but I listen to it. I'm going on instinct. I've never done this before, but it sounded so interesting."

Open since last July, the Dog has provided wall space for visual artists. On February 18, there will be an opening reception for a children's art show.

Performers are interested in the Dog because of its platform/stage area on one side and its clean, neutral look; kind of a cross between



Photo by Eugene Kettner

a living room and waiting room. The blue-gray carpeting absorbs stray noises. A few people lean over tables, writing or playing chess. There are standing ashtrays near the tables, a fountain plays near the front and faded Turkish scarves mellow the fluorescent lights above. Daniel enjoys running a cafe where customers can hang out, play cards, watch a ball game; but he still hasn't carried out his original intention.

"I was working seven to seven; I was dying. I had no strategy," he said. He found that he

had to coordinate things with several people to make it all happen. "Dealing with a lot of people's ideas, I needed to be coherent. Something had to change. Now I'm training two other people to do the cafe work so I have time to work in the community."

Community participation already contributes another element to the Falling Dog's full schedule: The Lexington Lookouts, a neighborhood patrol group from around the corner, hold their monthly meetings there.

In the meantime, the Dog remains a quiet place to have a smoke, read, and drink an espresso — at prices still lower than other nearby bistros. As far as the menu goes, Soares is still experimenting. "I've thought of cutting out sandwiches and bringing in more hot food, that no one else has," he said. "More and more cafes are opening up, everyone's serving the same thing."

Currently, you can still get a sandwich, a decent cup of soup

or one of the muffins piled up at the counter.

So keep an eye on the Falling Dog; you too may have artistic inspiration hit you on the head.

The Falling Dog Cafe is at 3591 20th St., at Valencia. Dance Theatre Project will read excerpts from "Feuerbach" at 8 p.m. on February 3. Open Mike Night is every Tuesday; sign-up at 7:30, performances at 8. For more information, call 826-8820.



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A CLASSY JOINT

by Victor Miller

Valencia Street is home to some of the city's most savory international cuisine. Indian, Near Eastern, Thai, Spanish, Mexican and Vietnamese and a host of other ethnic eateries have gone into the making of the Mission's Gourmet Gulch. There has, however, been something missing, something as basic to American alimentation and culture as apple pie - the burger joint.

Perhaps the most prominent element in the Mission's restaurant explosion in the last few years has been the concept of quality fast food, as demonstrated by any of several taquerias and establishments such as Katz Bagels and Truly Mediterranean. But where was the dining destination devoted to satisfying that enduring palate passion for a damn good burger? There was nothing.

Sure, hunkered down by the Bart Plazas were a couple multinational mega-corporate outposts purveying beef and bun consumables that bore the burger name and form but the heft, the substance, and the juice was lacking. These mass merchandised meat products served their purpose of filling the gullet but the soul of the hamburger experience was not evoked.

Now after nearly a year of meticulous preparation and attention to detail the hamburger has a home in the Mission; it's called, appropriately enough, Burger Joint.

Burger Joint is the project of Nidal Nazzari, whose other Mission businesses Cafe Nidal, Valencia Whole Foods and Val 21, have all been designed and operated with an eye to quality scene as well as cuisine. Burger Joint is no different; it's a classy joint in both respects.

Mission resident Scott Ellsworth, who designed Val 21, also designed Burger Joint. A checkerboard linoleum floor, a few flashes of chrome and some neon art, all work well with large booth-style seating to conjure up a 1950's style atmosphere time warped into the '90's. "It's kind of New Wave '50's," says Nidal.

Gigantic stencil blowups of international comic books that cover the walls, done by Scott Williams, fit in with this decor. A generous amount of window space and an open central area make for a roomy and sunny environment.

On the cuisine side of things, burger lovers

may rest assured that their fast food of choice is prepared in the juicy, tasty and substantial form that does it justice. Perhaps the main reason Burger Joint burgers are so good is that the beef comes from the Niman-Schell Ranch in Bolinas.

A small quality conscious operation with about a 1000 head of cattle at any one time, Niman-Schell raises grain fed steers without the use of antibiotics or hormones and supplies fresh, not frozen beef to about 200 restaurants in California including Stars and Masa's.

Bill Niman who has been in the business for 20 years shows a concern for the final product that goes beyond just selling fine beef. Niman often drops by Burger Joint not only to sample the burgers but to supervise their preparation. "I think I have an idea of what makes a good hamburger," says Niman. Niman has instructed the Burger Joint staff not to squeeze the juice out of the patty while it's on the grill, to make up a handmade patty for each individual order but not to manipulate the meat too much in doing so and other fine points of burger perfecting, which he says, in the parlance of cattlemen, "makes the burger eat better."

The end result of the thoroughness of rancher Niman and restaurateur Nidal is one of the best burgers you'll ever have. The rest of the menu consists of your basic fifties fare with a nineties attention to health and quality. The remarkably light but delicious fries are cooked in peanut oil. Root beer floats and milkshakes are made with Double Rainbow and if you order a chocolate shake you can count on it being made with chocolate ice cream. Hot dogs are all beef.

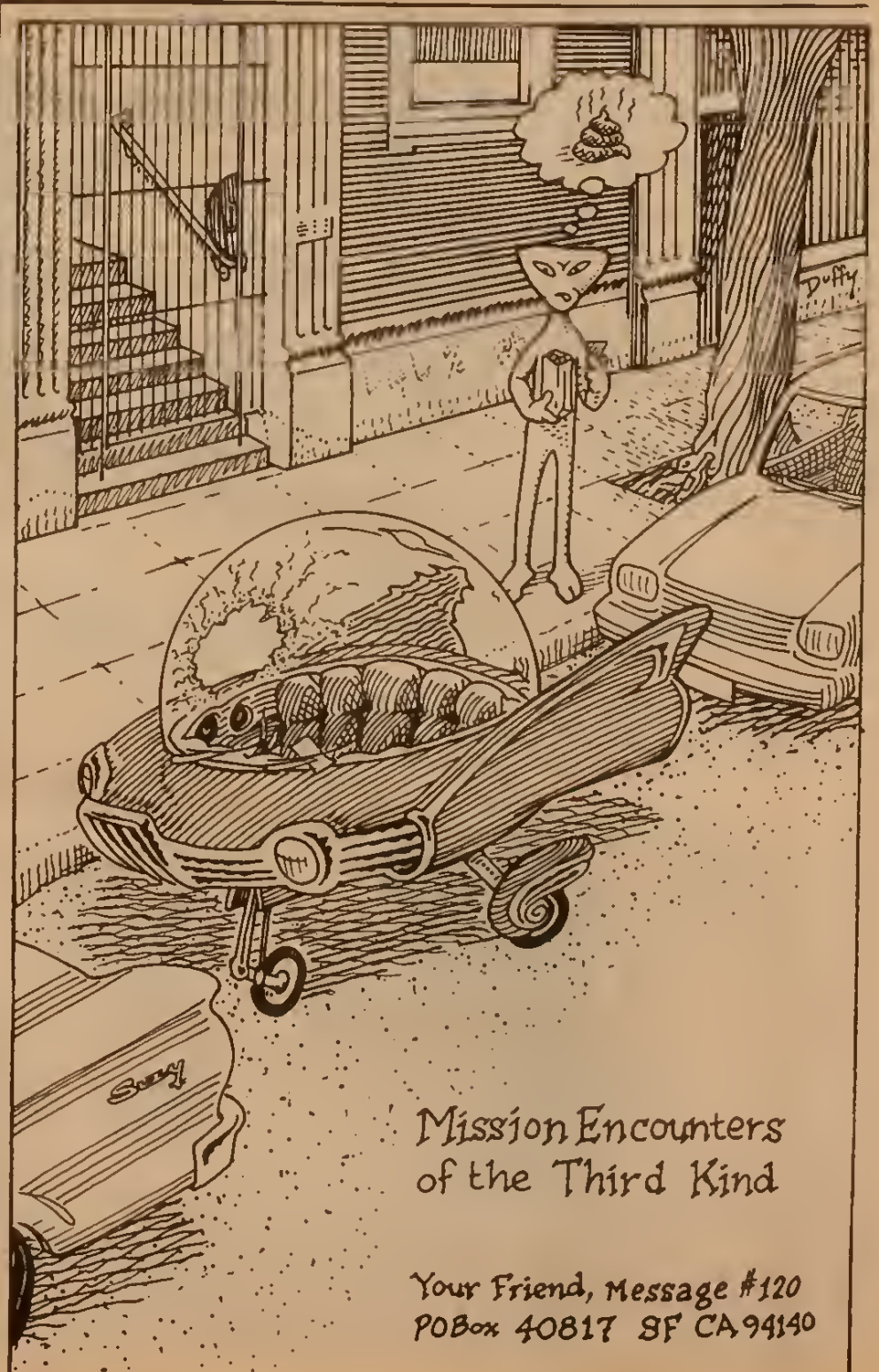
For those who have given up meat, no matter how conscientiously prepared, the Gardenburger is an excellent option that will get you into the spirit of things, if not the meat of the matter. The Gardenburger, priced at \$.45, is made with mushrooms, onions, cheese, bulgar, rolled oats, brown rice and other grains.

Burger prices are \$4.75, \$4.95 with either Jack, American or Swiss cheese. Shakes are \$2.75, floats are \$2.25 and fries are \$1.50 and \$2.50

Burger Joint is located at 807 Valencia Street, near 19th St. and open everyday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. The phone number is 824-3494.



Photo by Jeanne Hallacy



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- If you use the accrual method of accounting, you may be able to deduct bad debts, including loans;
- You may be able to claim a tax credit of up to \$5,000 for the costs of providing access to persons with disabilities;
- You can depreciate major business assets that have a useful life of more than one year, while Section 179 lets you deduct some assets the first year you use them;
- Avoid a hefty tax penalty by depositing your federal employment taxes on time; and,
- The depreciation of a luxury car is well below its actual cost, so you may be better off with a more modest vehicle.

For more small and new business tax assistance or information, including free forms and publications, call the IRS hotline at 1-800-TAX-1040. It's a little thing that could mean a lot.

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**WHAT'S NEW
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LIVE TO BE 100



by Sally McMullen, L.Ac., D.N.B.A.O.



Would you like to be over 100 and still be healthy and active? A study made of 39 residents of China who are over 100 may give you some ideas on how to do just that.

Thirty-one women and eight men were studied. All were raised in China. None of them smoke. The eldest is 127 years old.

Their advice: "Have a sensible daily routine." They go to bed early and get up early. They adapt their activities to the seasons: in Fall and Winter they conserve energy by doing less work and exercise, while spending more time on meditation.

"Don't worry too much." "Pay no mind to anger." These seniors say that when something unpleasant happens they forget the incident as quickly as possible. "Just take it easy." "Every time you laugh you will get ten years younger."

These elders exercise according to their abilities. One man walks up and down his stairs 20 times a day. Another, who can't go outdoors during the winter, simply walks around the kitchen table ten times each morning and afternoon!

What about diet? Seniors shouldn't eat too many calories because of their decreased activity. However, protein is very important. "Fish is the best food for the elderly." Also, they eat one egg and bean soup every day. They eat very little red meat.

Vegetables are a large part of their diet. The benefits of vegetables are many. They provide fiber, which helps prevent colon cancer. And, they provide hefty amounts of

vitamins and minerals.

Very important: These seniors took four Chinese herbs regularly. These herbs treat chronic problems which commonly affect the elderly. They can be used for long-term periods without dangerous side effects. They are combined and added to soups, or brewed as a tea.

These herbs help lower blood sugar and blood pressure. They reduce wrinkles and premature whitening of the hair. The herbs alleviate soreness and weakness of the back and knees, and urinary dysfunctions such as incontinence. For men, they help lower the incidence of premature ejaculation and impotence. (Chinese women take additional herbs during menopause.)

The effects of using herbs may sound too good to be true, but just stop by any Chinese herb store and you will see many people, young and old, of every nation, buying herbs. Chinese herbs have been used for thousands of years — a lot longer than aspirin.

The four Chinese herbs taken by the seniors who participated in this study are available at my office, and you may try them at a cost of \$8.00 for one month's supply. As indicated, the herbs need to be taken regularly for long-term beneficial effects. Try them for one month to see a difference in your health.

Sally McMullen, Licensed Acupuncturist and Medical Herbalist, has offices at 120 - 27th Street and 450 Sutter Street, San Francisco. She can be reached at (415) 550-7732.

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WHERE THERE'S SMOKE.....

by Jacqueline Elizabeth Letalien

"Cigarette smoking is hazardous to our health" has become a mantric dogma of the '90s. The surgeon general says this; non-smoking evangelicals and converted ex-smokers all say this. Even smokers are now beginning to believe this. As a result of the peer pressure, the smoking rate has been drastically reduced. The statistics prove this theorem. I also know this because there are smaller clouds of smoke everywhere. Instead of smoking in crowds, I am usually left alone to indulge (except for some hawk-eyed, rabid anti-smoker who buzzes me like a fly during a summer nap). It now feels somewhat unnatural to smoke indoors, sitting still. The other day in San Francisco, a friend and I went to three restaurants before we could find one that allowed smoking. In Berkeley there is no public indoor place to smoke.

We all know the ill effects of second-hand smoke; the general of surgeons tells us so. Great numbers of people have stopped smoking. There is another set of statistics that bothers me. Few people seem to notice these other realities, because we have been effectively directed to and thoroughly engaged in the harassment of each other over a personal habit. In spite of all that has been done to reduce the number of cigarette smokestacks — such as heavy-handed scare tactics, exorbitant taxation and the creation of a whole quit-smoking industry — the lung cancer rate continues to climb at an alarming rate. Camel's Joe Cool is not entirely responsible for this. I suspect there are some other things

hidden by this "smoke screen" issue.

First there is the real danger of cigarettes due to the avarice of profiteers. Commercial cigarettes in the United States are just plain poison. Such tobacco is cured in sugar and caffeine rather than the traditional indigenous method of curing it in spring water. Both ingredients are known as sure carcinogens, especially lethal when burned. (In fact, in the Philippines, sugar cane is produced in three grades; the first is used for fuel to run cars, the lowest for white sugar. Smoking sugar is the equivalent of ingesting gasoline.) Both ingredients are intensely habit-forming; addiction and thus committed consumer are ensured by these ingredients.

The papers contain saltpeter to make the cigarettes burn faster. This also ensures a higher level of consumption and is a known cause of impotency.

Then there is the paradox of "low tar and nicotine," "light" cigarettes. Because such cigarettes are essentially tasteless, tobacco companies work to strengthen the flavor by adding such ingredients as shellac. I leave the effect to imagination. No law has ever been passed to get tobacco companies to list the ingredients of their products, even though we ingest them. No study has been conducted to discern whether it is the tobacco or the junk put in it that is carcinogenic.

In our frenetic hurry for the quick fix, we also miss the fact that most work environments have abominable ventilation systems. Restaurants may now be saving our lungs by banning smoking, but grease and toxic cleaning chemicals are still entering our lungs. Office workers never get any fresh air in high-rise



buildings. We are being suffocated. We have grown complacent about these larger problems. When trains spill out toxic chemicals causing the evacuation of whole towns, exposing them to carcinogenic doses with irreparable effects, many of us sigh and say: "Well, that's one of the hazards of modern life." When we stand on a street corner, we suppress our coughing, hold our breaths and head for one of million of cars that turn our skies putrid orange.

When we turn on the lights in our homes, how many of us think of the nuclear waste being incinerated in the Livermore Valley and wasting the lives of the people who live there?

How many of us are aware that our excessive hunger for energy causes the people of Calistoga to be poisoned with lethal doses of sulfuric acid? We fool ourselves like bombardiers thousands of miles away from a "target." Know that each time one of us turns on the car ignition or a light switch, we are killing someone.

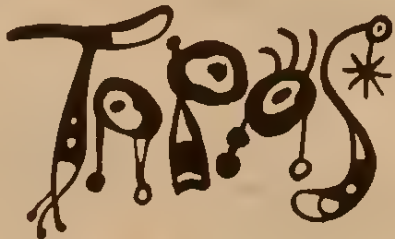
Someday, hopefully soon, this whole toxic picture will be seen and understood because there will be no cigarette smokers standing on a porch in the rain to provide a smoke screen. It is corporate avarice and profit motive that is carcinogenic. In the meantime, I am buying myself a fly swatter.

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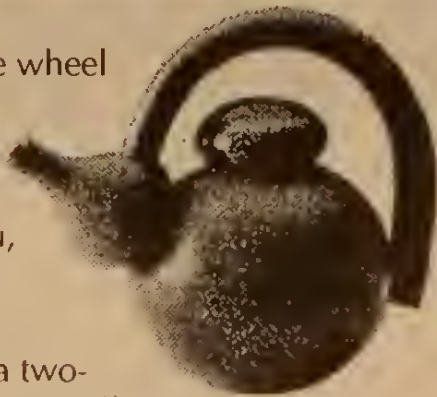
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MISSION DISTRICT CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2

A DESIRABLE 'ZINE - Reading by the contributors to *Inciting Desire*, the 'zine of boundary crossing erotica. You are invited to share your hottest writing. Good Vibrations 1210 Valencia St., 8-10 p.m., free. Call 974-8980.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Cherrie Moraga - The politically inclined poet and essayist reads from her works. Discussion follows. Old Wives' Tales 1009 Valencia St., \$3-10, 8:00 p.m. Call 821-4676.

Guatemalan Terror - Jennifer Harbury discusses her new book *Bridge of Courage: Life Stories of Guatemalan Companeros and Companeras*. Modern Times Books 888 Valencia St., 7:30 p.m., free. Call 282-9246

Aching Angelinos - Damaged Californians, an L.A. based media group will be on hand to host a screening of their Eco-activist film "Below 30\ Above 10,000" - shot in Belize and California's High Sierra. Bear-fu, manta ray-fu. Lots of beasts. A.T.A. 992 Valencia St., 8:30 p.m., \$5. Call 824-3890.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Margie Turns Twenty - The renowned Margaret Jenkins Dance Company celebrates its twentieth anniversary with the premiere performance of *The Gates (Far Away Near)*; the Paul Drescher Ensemble plays its original score live for the first night. Other performances on February 12 at 8 and 13 at 7. Theater Artaud 450 Florida St., 8 p.m., \$16-18. Call 621-7797.

Latin American Songs - "Cantando A Latinoamerica" featuring the voices and guitars of Lichi Fuentes and Rafael Manriquez, live. Pena Del Sur 2870 22nd St., 9 p.m., \$5. Call 550-1101.

Always Room For The Blues - The Blue Room Boys play the blues at Radio Valencia 1199 Valencia St., 6:30 p.m., free. Call 826-1199.

The Klaus That Refreshes - Veronica Klaus and her band provide a cabaret night of the old the obscure and the familiar. Komotion 2779 16th St., 10p.m., \$4-5. Call 861-6423.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5

Not Peculiar, Queer - A celebration of queer women in the sex industry with real live stuff by lesbian and bisexual strippers, lap dancers, phone sex workers and others; plus video in progress "Straight for the Money". Komotion 2779 16th St., 9 p.m., \$4-5. Call 861-6423.

Found Footage Fiesta - O No Coronado by Craig Baldwin an "aggressively reconstructed" film depiction of the Spanish invasion of the American Southwest and Phil Patris' "Iraq Campaign 1991" redefine historical fictionality. A.T.A. 992 Valencia St., 8:30 p.m., \$5. Call 824-3890.

Electrified East and West - The Paul Drescher Electric Chamber Ensemble combines traditional acoustic instruments and hi-tech electrics in a program of music by contemporary West Coast and Japanese composers. Also on February 10 and 11. Theater Artaud 450 Florida St., 8 p.m., \$16-18. Call 621-7797.

Folkaduckie Sounds - Live folk music by Duck Baker and Molly Andrews at Radio Valencia 1199 Valencia St., 6:30, free. Call 826-1199.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 6

Kronos Quartet's Five Star Season Finale - This performance of five works written

specifically for the Quartet includes Lee Hyla's "Howl" which features a taped reading of the Allen Ginsberg poem by the poet himself interacting with the music; also the West Coast premiere of Yanov-Yanovsky's "Awakening" that makes use of a recording of the Moslem call to prayer. Theater Artaud 450 Florida St., 7 p.m., \$16-18. Call 621-7797. Also on February 18 and 19 at 8.

Chiapas, the Shot Henrd Round the World - Video presentation by Gloria La Riva. Pena Del Sur 2870 A 22nd St., 6p.m., free. Call 550-1101.

Dynamic Duo - Duo Navya, flutist Kate Steinbeck and pianist Lori Lack, are joined by guest bassoon John Hoover in a performance of works by Muczynski, Diemer and others. Community Music Center 544 Capp St., 4 p.m., \$3-8. Call 647-6015.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Monday Martian Merriment - Short performance pieces by Janet Keller, Kirk Mustard, Mariah Richardson, and Charlie Varon. Repeats each Monday with varied participants. The Marsh 1062 Valencia St., 8:30 p.m., \$6. Call 641-0235.

Town Hall Meeting on Proposed Mission Detox Center - Walden House unveils its plans to operate a detox and residential care program for the homeless. Theater Artaud 450 Florida St., 6 p.m.. Call Laurie at 554-1100.

Real Voices - Talespinners Theater presents monologues, short plays and story telling from the Oral History Playwrights Project. Also on the 15th. The Marsh 1062 Valencia St., 8:30 p.m., \$7-10. Call 641-0235.

Tuesday, February 8

Cesar Chavez Blvd. Or 24th St. - 24th Street Merchants Association meets with Supervisor Bill Maher to discuss his proposal to rename 24th St. Cesar Chavez Blvd. El Norreno Restaurant 3161 24th St., 8:30 a.m., free. Call 824-4418.

Valencia St. Bike Lane Meeting - The Department of Parking and Traffic seeks public comment on plans to put bike lanes down the length of Valencia St. New College 777 Valencia St., 6:30 p.m. Call 554-2300.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Sex Wise and Video Tape - Workshop on making better sex videos taught by Lisa Ginsberg. Pre- registration required, Good Vibrations 1210 Valencia St., 8-10 p.m., \$20. Call 974-8980.

The Green Scene - Mission branch of the Green Party meets at New College 777 Valencia St. at 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Ida B. and BBQ - Video on the life of Black activist Ida B. Wells will be shown at this meeting of Bay Area Radical Women preceded by a BBQ dinner Valencia Hall 523-A Valencia St., dinner 6:45 p.m., meeting 7:30, Donation \$5.00. Call 864-1278.

Pride of the Pile Butts - Archie Green talks about his book of on the job stories, songs and customs - *Wobblies, Pile Butts and Other Heroes: Laborlore Explorations*. Modern Times 888 Valencia St., 7:30 p.m., free. Call 282-9246.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Salvadoran Candidate - Gerson Martinez FMLN candidate for the Legislative Assembly of El Salvador speaks on the social and political

situation in his country. S.F. Women's Building 3545 18th St., 7-9 p.m., free. Call 648-8222.

Belles of the Video Hair Ball - Videos on the theme of women and hair. A.T.A. 992 Valencia St., 8:30 p.m., \$5 (Bearded Women Free). Call 824-3890.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Them Horn Moans - Free live music, title tells all. Radio Valencia 1199 Valencia St., 6:30 p.m. Call 826-1199.

Escape To Alcatraz - Film and video unrestrained confinement fantasies, See page 15 for details. A.T.A. 992 Valencia St., 8:30 p.m., \$5 Call 824-3890.

Fighting Violence Against Black Youth - Panel discussion with Akilah Monifa, African American Professor of Law at New College and Victoria Hudson, writer for Children's Advocate Newspaper. Preceded by Southern-Style dinner. Valencia Hall 523-A Valencia St., 8:00 p.m., dinner 6:30\panel 8:00, \$3-7.50. Call 864-1278.

Fusion in Frisco -A dual performance blending the styles of Latino musicians Mauricio Bertin and Miguel De La Fuente. Pena Del Sur 2870-A 22nd St., 9:30 p.m., \$5. Call 550-1101.

Amor-O-Rama - Valentine's Day party and live art auction. Pre-auction party includes no-host bar, love potions, love advisors and palm readers. auction features 50 one-of-a-kind art hearts by noted Latino artists. Proceeds benefit Galeria de La Raza. Studio 24 2857 24th St., 3-6 p.m. Call 826-8009.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Crashing the Internet - Crash course for aspiring information cyborgs includes the low down on high tech communications services such as e-mail, gopher, world-wide web, and Internet Relay Chat. Modern Times 888 Valencia St., 8:30 p.m., \$3-5. Call 282-9246.

Jazz, Jazz, Jazz - Paul Plimely, Lisle Ellis and the Donald Robinson Trio. Radio Valencia 1199 Valencia St., 8:30 p.m., \$7. Call 826-1199.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Small Business Survival Conference - This gathering of 5000 small business owners and operators features gubernatorial candidate John Garamedi speaking on the Clinton Health Plan. There will be 16 targeted conference sessions on managing, marketing, financial planning, technology and other topics relevant to small business well being. Moscone Convention Center. Runs through 2/15. \$25 for one day, \$45 for both days. Call 512-6800.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Ribald Read Around - This women only event guarantees you a nonjudgemental atmosphere to read your raunchiest renditions of carnal creativity, all proclivities welcome. Good Vibrations 1210 Valencia St., 8-10 p.m., free. Call 974-8980.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Hammerheads This One's for You - Journalist Kay Mills talks about her new book, This Little Light of Mine: The Life of Fannie Lou Hammer. Old Wives' Tales 1009 Valencia St., 8:00 p.m., \$3-10. Call 821-4676.

So You Want To Write For Magazines? - This National Writer's Panel will tell you how to do it. Modern Times 888 Valencia St., 8:30 p.m., \$10 for Writer's Union members\ \$15 for non- members. Call 282-9246.

Weird America - Perhaps after living in the Mission going to see photographer Charles Gatewood's video travelogue of bizarre goings on in the U.S. of A. might seem to be a coals-to-Newcastle sort of thing; but people from Joe Bob Briggs to William Burroughs say this guy has an eye for the outre. Warning includes mud wrestling footage. A.T.A. 992 Valencia St., 8:30 p.m., \$5. Call 824-3890.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Familiar Disorders - Family Inc. is a series of serious and not so serious video and film offerings dealing with sundry unpleasant aspects of family life, tonight's feature presentation is Linda Tadic's Systems of Authority Methods of Repression. A.T.A. 992 Valencia St., 8:30 p.m., \$5. Continues tomorrow. Call 824-3890.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Mexicano Romantico - "A Night of Passion" with Jesus Guillen and his fellow musicians. Pena Del Sur @870-A 22nd St., 9:30 p.m., \$5. Call 550-1101.

A Very Merry Un-Gavin to You - The pretentious Gavin Showcase is counterpointed by this soon-to-be-pretentious un-Gavin Showcase featuring Viginia Dare, Fifth Business and Headlock. Komotion 2779 16th St., 10 p.m., \$4-5. Call 861-6423.

Family Maybem - Family Inc. continues with tonight's headliner being the S.F. debut of Martin Arnold's "Passage A L'Acte" an optically printed analysis of a family dinner. A.T.A. 992 Valencia St., 8:30 p.m., \$5. Call 824-3890.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Good Lorde! - Dedication/celebration of the Audre Lorde Room at the S.F. Women's Building with Judy Grahn, Janice Mirikitani, Canyon Sam and others. 3545 18th St., 4 p.m., free. Call 821-4676.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Wildcat Words - Writers Chris Pray, Ian Shoales and others examine the democratic and totalitarian potential of the information highway. The Marsh 1062 Valencia St., 8:30 p.m., \$3-10. Call 641-0235.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Lesbian Apparition - Standford Professor Terry Castle talks about her book The Apparitional Lesbian, a socio-historical analysis of patriarchal societies' alternating attitudes of antagonism and titillation regarding the Sapphic sisterhood. Old Wives' Tales 1009 Valencia St., 8:00 p.m., \$3-10. Call 821-4676.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Incredibly Black Films - Jim Morton editor of Incredibly Strange Films explains, with the use of movie trails the phenomenon of Blaxploitation that produced Shaft, Blacula, and Cleopatra Jones and held a nervous nation in its grip during the early '70s. A screening of The Human Tornado with Rudy Ray Moore follows. A.T.A. 992 Valencia St., 8:30 p.m., \$5. Call 824-3890.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Let's Get Stone Naked - Medusa, described as "a naked experience through music, dance, video and real space imagery", promises dancers suspended in mid-air, strange choralic rituals and a half naked female Jesus. Komotion 2779 16th St., Saturday at 8 and 10 p.m. and Sunday at 8 p.m. followed by a reception. \$5-10. Call 861-6423.

Murderous Moms and Dads - Family Inc. Festival of Bad HouseKeeping continues. See 2/19.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27

MUD Wrestling - Cyberspace men and women talk about MUDs, MUSEs and MOOs and other weird multi-user simulated environments. Jack in, jack on, jack out. Modern Times 888 Valencia St., 7:30 p.m., \$3-5. Call 282-9246.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28

A Man From False Hope - Norman Solomon discusses his book False Hope: The Politics Of Illusion In The Clinton Era. Modern Times 888 Valencia St., 7:30 p.m., free. Call 282-9246.

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ROUND WORLD MUSIC REVIEW

by Robert Leaver

From Puerto Rico comes the sensational all-star Latin jazz/folkloric jam double-CD, "Descarga Boricua." Produced by Frank Ferrer for Tierrazo Productions, this was recorded in San Juan in the summer of 1993. From Cachao-like Cuban jam constructs to folkloric *rumba*, Latin jazz and the Puerto Rican *bomba* and *plena*, these 15 tunes explore the totality of the NYC-Cuba-Puerto Rico musical landscape. They feature, among many others, the singer Justo Betancourt, Ismael Miranda, Papo Vasquez on trombone, Bobby Valentin on bass, Cachete Maldonado on conga, and local favorite Anthony Carillo on bongo. For the most part, arrangements were done collectively, like a true jam. This "descarga" is not to be missed.

For the "rumberos," there is also a new CD from Puerto Rico by Tacuafan: **Grupo Folklorico Afroantillano**, under the direction of Cachete, entitled "Caribe Negro". The instrumentation is largely drums and percussion, with a *tres* (guitar) and the great Andy Gonzalez on bass. The menu of styles here is strictly roots *bomba*, *plena* and *rumba*.

One of the most sought-after collector's records is the famous Blue Note 1561, otherwise known as Sabu Martinez "Palo Congo". This record features the man himself, Arsenio Rodriguez, who not only plays *tres* but sings — or rather, shouts — some Afro-Cuban folkloric songs and plays the tumba drum. A must for fans of Latin jazz and *rumba*, this early-'60s record is now available as a limited edition Japanese reprint in vinyl — still LP only.

Moving over in the Caribbean to Haiti, that master of double-entendre, singer Coupe Cloue, celebrates 36 years in music with a new release "SA Ki Pou Ou." Well-loved not only

in Haiti and throughout the Haitian diaspora of Miami, Montreal, Paris and New York, Cloue is also known throughout West Africa, where in the '70s he was crowned "Le Roi" (the king). Africans immediately embraced his music as African because the guitar, percussion, even the vocal style, are recognizable. For his classic material, check out "Maximum Compas from Haiti" on the Earthworks label.

Perhaps the single most popular singer in Haiti is Michel Martelly who has remained in Haiti while most other musicians have sought exile. In the past his music seemed merely disposable pop, but his new record "The Sweetest" is his masterpiece. The grooves are deep and the record is filled with humor — check out the funk/rap chorus, partly in English, on "Compas Tounin." Not a duff cut here: they even do a carnival tune at the end featuring the rara rhythm and instrumentation; the song starts slow as the group is climbing up a hill, then it gets faster as they descend, then faster still — to a frenzy. "The Sweetest" should bring Martelly success in the Antilles and beyond.

On the Paris front, and in West and Central Africa, the man of the moment is Zairian singer Koffi Olomide. Already a star of African popular music, his new album "Papa Plus: Noblesse Oblige" is a true masterpiece. This tour-de-force production brings together the usual top-notch musicians and more. The chorus alone has 12 singers, 4 of them women, with the like of Nyboma and Deese. Top session-men abound and the production is heavily techno, but superb — the best African production I've heard since Salif Keita's "Soro".

To truly appreciate "Le Roi De Tchatcho" — a title Koffi O. has given himself — one must appreciate the cult subtleties. Every recent album has featured new vocal shout-



outs that appear again and again in the narrative. Last year it was "Sa c'est bon sa" (it's good, isn't it?); this year's is "Sanc son sanc" (five out of five).

He adheres to a variation of the classic Congolese soukous formula where the song has a little intro (ranging from clavichord to raindrops, violins and breaking glass); then the guitar and drums enter at mid-tempo, emotion-laden vocals sing the song; then BAM — into a faster tempo: second gear, shout-outs, trading verses, vocal counter-melodies, lush chorus vocals, all the while a deep, driving bubbly active bass, the hardest-working drummer in soukous is rocking steady double-beat, tingly high pure guitar riffs weave around and a myriad of voices come together. A truly modern take on a great African-style soukous.

The title cut "Noblesse Oblige" starts with a funky bass; the beat drops; a voice laughs; glass breaks, and I swear I hear Barry White in an Afro-rumba. Koffi Olomide has as many voices as hats, and truly devoted as he is to the art of fashion and presentation, you can bet this man has a closetful.

For the romantic spirit who likes a slow, teasing, sensual build leading to an explosion, check out Koffi Olomide. You can find his and other great African, Latin and Caribbean music at Round World Music at 593 Guerrero Street.



SAN FRANCISCO FREE EATS CHART JANUARY 1 – FEBRUARY 28, 1994

NAME, LOCATION, PHONE NUMBER	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	NOTES
1. ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH 1350 Waller St. (near Masonic) 552-1122 (meal information), 621-1862 (office)							Brunch 10:30-11:00am	
*2. DINNER'S READY Philadelphia Seventh-Day Adventist Church 2520 Bush St. (between Scott & Divisadero) 469-9042		Lunch 12:00-1:30pm	Lunch 12:00-1:30pm	Lunch 12:00-1:30pm	Lunch 12:00-1:30pm			VEGETARIAN. Entrée, salad, bread & punch.
* * CLOSED JANUARY 1 - 17, 1994. RE-OPEN TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1994. * *								
3. FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH U.N. Plaza in front of old Federal Building (50 Hyde St.) 863-3382							Dinner the second & third Sat. of the month 4:30-5:00pm	Soup, bread and fruit.
4. FOOD NOT BOMBS Civic Center Plaza (Polk St. between Grove & McAllister; when it rains, go to the arcade of Bill Graham Auditorium, 99 Grove St. near Polk), Golden Gate Park (by Haight & Stanyan) 330-5030	6:00-7:00pm Civic Center Plaza	12:00-1:00pm 6:00-7:00pm Civic Center Plaza	12:00-1:00pm 6:00-7:00pm Civic Center Plaza	12:00-1:00pm 6:00-7:00pm Civic Center Plaza	12:00-1:00pm 6:00-7:00pm Civic Center Plaza	12:00-1:00pm 6:00-7:00pm Civic Center Plaza	6:00-7:00pm Civic Center Plaza	VEGETARIAN. Soup & bread; bring your own bowl. Meals often start late.
*5. GLIDE MEMORIAL CHURCH 330 Ellis St. (at Taylor) 441-6501 (office, M-F 9-5) 771-4232 (crisis line, M-F 10am-5pm)	8:00-9:00am 12:00-1:00pm	8:00-9:00am 12:00-1:00pm	8:00-9:00am 12:00-1:00pm	8:00-9:00am 12:00-1:00pm	8:00-9:00am 12:00-1:00pm	8:00-9:00am 12:00-1:00pm	8:00-9:00am 12:00-1:00pm	Sandwich & chips (to go) provided after lunch Sunday & Saturday. CLOSED January 1, 1994.
6. HAIGHT-ASHBURY FOOD PROGRAM 1525 Waller St. (near Belvedere) 566-0366			Lunch 12:30-1:30pm	Lunch 12:30-1:30pm	Lunch 12:30-1:30pm	Lunch 12:30-1:30pm		VEGETARIAN alternative. Volunteers welcome at 8am. Families eat at 11:30am, disabled people at noon.
7. HOSPITALITY HOUSE YOUTH CENTER 290 Turk (by Leavenworth) 749-2139 (M-F 9-5)		Lunch 12:00-1:00pm	Lunch 12:00-1:00pm	Lunch 12:00-1:00pm	Lunch 12:00-1:00pm	Lunch 12:00-1:00pm		Only for youths 20 & under. Sandwich, juice & fruit.
*8. LA IGLESIA LATINA AMERICANA DE LAS ADVENTISTAS SEPTIMO DIA 3024 24th St. (near Harrison) 994-4858	Lunch the 3rd Sun. of the month 12:00-1:00pm							Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, hot chocolate, boiled eggs, fresh fruit.
*9. MARTIN DE PORRES 225 Potrero Ave. (near 16th St.) 552-0240	Brunch 9:00-10:30am	Breakfast 6:00-7:30am	Breakfast 6:00-7:30am Snack 9:00am-3:00pm	Lunch 12:00-3:00pm	Breakfast 6:00-7:30am Lunch 12:00-3:00pm	Breakfast 6:00-7:30am Lunch 12:00-3:00pm	Lunch 12:00-3:00pm	VEGETARIAN alternative Wed. & Fri. Breakfast: oatmeal & herb tea. Lunch: a hearty soup, except Tues. (broth & bread). Medical services Tuesday 12-1:30pm.
* * MARTIN'S WILL BE CLOSED JAN. 1 - JAN. 7, 1994. REOPEN SATURDAY, JAN. 8, 1994. * *								
10. MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY 1330 4th St. (at 3rd St.) 821-9687 (9am-noon, 3:30-7pm)	Dinner 3:00-5:00pm	Dinner 4:45-6:00pm	Dinner 4:45-6:00pm	Dinner 4:45-6:00pm		Dinner 4:45-6:00pm	Dinner 4:45-6:00pm	Soup & sandwiches. Short prayer before meals.
*11. NEW AWAKENING OUTREACH MINISTRIES 1022 Newhall St. (near Kirkwood) 826-7709			Lunch 1:00-2:30pm	Lunch 1:00-2:30pm	Lunch 1:00-2:30pm	Lunch 1:00-2:30pm		Entrée, vegetable, salad, fruit & punch.
12. NINETEENTH AVE. BAPTIST CHURCH U.N. Plaza in front of old Federal Building (50 Hyde St.) 564-7721							Dinner the fourth Sat. of the month 4:30-5:00pm	Soup, bread & fruit.
13. PASQUA FOOD PROJECT Boeddeker Park Recreation Center 240 Eddy St. (near Jones) 255-7997							Breakfast 7:30-10:00am	Eggs, bread, coffee, fruit & pastry.
14. PRIMERA IGLESIA BAPTISTA DEL SUR 976 South Van Ness Ave. (near 21st St.) 647-1000	Breakfast 1st Sun. of the month 8:00-9:00am							A full breakfast.
*15. ST. ANTHONY'S DINING ROOM 45 Jones St. (near Golden Gate) 241-2600	Lunch 10am-12:30pm	Lunch 10am-12:30pm	Lunch 10am-12:30pm	Lunch 10am-12:30pm	Lunch 10am-12:30pm	Lunch 10am-12:30pm	Lunch 10am-12:30pm	First seated: those over 60, or with kids or medical proof that they can't stand in line. Call about showers, laundry, VEG- ETARIAN meals, & other services.
16. ST. JOHN'S AFRICAN ORTHODOX (ONE MIND TEMPLE) 351 Divisadero St. (near Oak) 621-4054	Lunch 3:30-4:30pm	Lunch 2:30-3:30pm		Lunch 12:00-2:00pm				VEGETARIAN. Sun. & Mon.: beans, rice, vegetables, salad, fruit & bread. Wed.: noodle soup & bread.
17. ST. PETER & PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH 666 Filbert St. (on Washington Square) 421-0809	Sandwich 4:00-5:00pm	Sandwich 4:00-5:00pm	Sandwich 4:00-5:00pm	Sandwich 4:00-5:00pm	Sandwich 4:00-5:00pm	Sandwich 4:00-5:00pm	Sandwich 4:00-5:00pm	A simple sandwich for people of North Beach.
18. THIRD BAPTIST CHURCH 1399 McAllister St. (near Pierce) 923-0259					Lunch 12:30-1:30pm			Meat, vegetables, salad & dessert.
19. TRUE HOPE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST 950 Gilman Ave. (near Griffith) 822-5626			Lunch 12:00-1:00pm					Sermon 12-12:45pm; eat at 12:50pm. Meat, vegetables, bread & dessert.
20. UNITED COUNCIL OF HUMAN SERVICES 191 Golden Gate (at Turk) 822-5067							Dinner 4:00pm until food runs out	Meal entrée with vegetables.

*indicates important changes since 12/31/93

We'd like your corrections, comments, or additions for our next bimonthly update. Please call 648-3222.

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MY FUNNY VALENTINES

by Frank Stauf

It's open mike night at Club Lonely Hearts and all the irregulars are there to cry their piece. The Love God sits at the bar admiring his own reflection in the mirror, wondering how any woman can resist him. The Loser, his identical twin, sits on the very next bar stool, staring into the same mirror, muttering to his reflection: "There is nothing more repulsive on this earth than you." His image answers back: "I love you too, Old Thing."

In a corner, in a darkened booth, an Old Maid puts on makeup to hide the scratches she got all over her face from trying to blow her cat. A Trappist Monk sits near her, furtively groping himself under his burlap robe. "Give us this day our daily guilt." Most of the other booths are crowded, noisy with laughter, young fuckups drinking together — "Hey barkeep! Another round for revelation! We'll inseminate another line, 'cause Jesus is a friend of mine!"

Thank God for friends.

On stage, the opening act consists of a man and a woman piercing one another's earlobes, noses, eyebrows, lips, nipples, genitals, with sharpened swizzle sticks, then licking up the beads of blood with pierced tongues.

Yes, it's a pretty mixed bunch in here. Goes by the name of Legion.

At a table in the middle of the club, the Exquisite Princess sits alone. She sips a tall cool drink through a thin glass straw while all around her boys and dykes are knocking back cheap shots trying to work up enough courage to approach Her. Occasionally some poor schmuck does. A single freezing glance from Her and the schmucksie keels over on the concrete floor to shatter into a million bits.

Anon, a courtly Knight rides in upon a steed of purest white. Unhinging his breastplate, he proffers his noble heart to the fair Princess. At the merest hint of a thaw from Her, the other patrons descend upon the Per-



fect Couple with bloodcurdling shrieks and murderous swizzle sticks. Exquisite Princess, Knight and horse are quickly reduced to exquisite hors d'oeuvres, served on half-shells of broken armor. Everybody is so busy chowing down that for a moment they forget all about the open mike — except for Little Boy Blue and Little Girl Blue, who huddle together under a table, him crying for mommy, her crying for daddy, putting the finishing touches on the poems they plan to read. Sigmund Freud squats under the table with them, droning on as he sucks his cigar: "Ja, ja, zeez are all konditions arizing vrom need."

Maybe the old sod was right. Too many of us humans go around our whole lives searching for the kind of total acceptance we should have had when we were kids. Old patterns repeat themselves, ja? and we remain as children.

As the evening wears on, the crowd gets ugly. Brief alliances are formed, betrayed; trysts broken; bottles thrown across the room. Big tears plop heavy into beers. A lot of hateful poems are read. How do I loathe thee? Let me count the warts. He moves his chair to another table and starts fresh. Do you come here often? It's the nature of the game, I think. Buy you a drink? Your face or mine? Nudge,

wink. Do our endings define us?

Do I have the courage to face only the moments? Duh, the moment of holding needs the moment of letting go. The moment of having feels the moment of losing.

A moment walks into the bar, says to the next moment: "It's the nature of our game to be never the same, one to the next."

"Dirt sticks!" cries the Heckler.

So who's that woman getting up on stage, stark naked on a half-shell and without a stitch of manuscript? Her silver scars shine like bright sickle moons. Her wet hair sparkles like a crown of jewels. She smiles and says:

"Sometimes I have this dream that after we die

and our bodies drop away from us like bath towels, and everything else that kept us apart drops away too, we all stand astral naked in front of each other in this amazing cosmic shower, see?

And it won't even be a question, of course we'll love each other.

99% of human enterprise is trying to deny that dream.

It's like they want to see us bending over for the soap, turn love into a win/lose proposition.

Like they need us all to show them where to stick it."

I'm sending this one out for all us funny Valentines.



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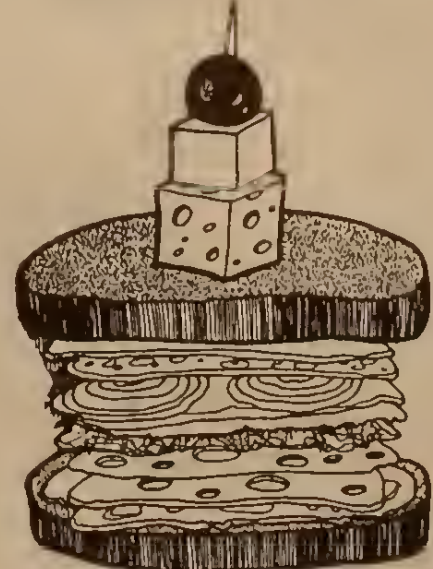
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